

*Romans 8:14-17 / June 17, 2012  
Relating to God differently, as Daddy.*

*The Bible makes known to humanity our accountability before God.*

- All are sinners.*
- This is the message of the first part of the letter.*

*Historically, there are two ways of understanding humanity's accountability before God:*

- 1. Deny God exists (not an option for Paul)*
- 2. Formality - This was Israel's experience*

*While God always viewed Israel relationally, they tended to understand Him, legally. (Their religious leaders were referred to as "lawyers." - Matthew 22:34-36) Jesus opened a third way; Paul identifies this as a "spiritual" way of responding to God.*

*The spiritual way involves being "led by the [Holy] Spirit." (v. 14)*

*A person interacts with God on the level of the inner man or woman.  
His values are our values. His agenda is our agenda. His will is our will.  
What He wants sways how we choose to live.*

*The spiritual way recognizes the imparting of God's Spirit into a person.  
(v. 15)*

*Relating to God differently is not about a person's actions. Actions reflect a change in the person. A substantive change happens to the person. He or she is "adopted" as a child of God. Their character and nature is added to and changed.*

*It is not just in what I do, but in who I am, that is altered. I have been joined to God. John 1:12-13; "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."*

*A "right" is the capacity, freedom, and access to function within a state of being.  
A right is a gift from God that extends from our new state.*

*The spiritual way is accompanied by an inner reality of God's presence.  
(v. 16-17)*

- God Spirit assures us we are His*
- Being His, His kingdom (rule and reign) is our present reality.*