



Grain

“Love breaks the divisions we have constructed.” Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Field

“¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” Romans 8:14-17

Thoughts

It was common for unwanted children to be used as slaves in the ancient world. Simultaneously, there were childless couples who were eager to adopt children and give them all of the rights, including of inheritance, their biological children would have received. The language of adoption in Romans is powerful in its context and today. God offers to children who are treated as subhuman, and to all of us, not a spirit of slavery, but adoption.

Thank God slavery is illegal in most of the world today, and yet it still rears its ugly head legally and illegally. Even right here in the Midwest, there are children born and raised in the U.S. as well as in other countries, and who are comprised of a variety of classes and ethnicities, who are sex trafficked. Certainly, some children are more vulnerable than others. We know that experiencing poverty, bias and separation from one's family can increase a young person's risk for being trafficked.

We at least see bipartisan support to create public policies that increase consequences for the perpetrators and support services for those victimized. However, we also hear contradictory messages. Many representatives who support good laws specifically on trafficking are also advocating for a Farm Bill that threatens to leave more children hungry. Our current administration has stigmatized immigrants and refugees and threatened to separate families. What does this do for the stability of young people? Which children matter? Our answer as people of faith is obvious.

I am an heir with Christ. Try repeating that. To the children let us proclaim, “You are joint heirs with Christ,” as a statement of faith and our resistance. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly Recommended

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy