



Be Children
No More,
But Sons
of God

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Chapter 1

Children vs. Sons

Let's begin this study defining the difference between a child and a son. A child is the younger one. He or she requires more rules and restrictions and can make fewer choices on their own because of the lack of understanding of complex things. A child needs more guidance than a son. He is completely submitted under a father's rules.

A son is the older and more mature than the child. He requires fewer rules, has more responsibilities, and has a larger capacity to think on his own. This gives him more flexibility and control over his life. A son (man) has the ability to reproduce through intimacy whereas the younger son does not have that capability until he physically matures. The father sees him on an equal scale, and is therefore able to discuss the complicated issues of life.

Here are some examples. A younger child asks for permission to get drink from kitchen, but an older son can go at his free will. A son can stay outside unattended until later, but a child has to be inside before dark, and may need to be watched more closely. Throughout this study we will examine the difference between the two in scripture.

1 John 2:12-14 defines the child, son and father. These represent stages of spiritual growth.

1 John 2:12-14

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

The children are focused on having their sins forgiven and knowing the Father. Young Believers tend to have a sin consciousness instead of a righteousness mentality. They are focused on "do not", "touch not" and "think not". A sign of growth is having their focus to change from what they do and don't do (works) to getting to know the Father and walking in His grace. The need for repentance and change will never leave, but the motive behind it changes from rules and regulations to wanting to be like the Father in word and in deed.

The Fathers, or mature Christians, are finding their identity and destiny in the Heavenly Father. They are focused on finding God's original plan for their life that was preordained before time. God told Jeremiah that he was chosen to be a prophet before he was formed in his mother's womb (Jeremiah 1). David acknowledged that all of his days

were written in a book before he was formed (Psalm 139:16). We are the offspring of God (Acts 17:16).

Young men, or sons, are taking action and walking as Jesus walked. They have overcome the enemy. The written word (Scripture) and words spoken directly from the Father are stored in their heart. Sons know the voice of the Good Shepherd and the voice of a stranger they will not follow (John 10:27-28). As the strong ones and as the overcomers, sons are focused on doing the works of Jesus and even greater (John 14:12). Sons walk in the same power and authority as Jesus as described in Acts 10:38:

Acts 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Paul further explains the difference between children and sons and the growth process in 1 Corinthians 13:11-12. A son is a man who has a higher level of understanding and thinking than a child.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

A son has a fuller understanding of the deeper things of the Word.

In Hebrews 5 and 6 Paul rebukes the Believers for needing the milk of the Word instead of the meat.

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

In this passage, milk represents the legalistic rules and dos and don'ts of the Word (a child-like understanding). The foundational truths listed in Hebrews 6:1-2. The meat represents the deeper spiritual truths of the Word that leads us into an intimate relationship with the Father. It also gives us the spiritual nourishment to execute the Father's will in the earth and to teach others. Sons can partake of the meat of the Word

and have the spiritual strength to discern between good and evil for themselves, because they have used and developed their spiritual muscles.

Ephesians 4:14-15 further supports the stability and strength of a son because of his understanding of spiritual things. It says that children in the faith are easily persuaded in their faith and are easily deceived. A son is stable, firm and is aiming towards speaking the truth in love and is growing towards his Christhood as a younger brother.

Ephesians 4:14-15

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Chapter 2

Growing from Children into Sons

Let's take a closer look at the difference between the children and the sons. Paul gives us a detailed description in Galatians 4:1-7.

Galatians 4:1

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

A child behaves and has the same authority as a servant, but stored in him is the potential to rule over all. A servant does not have any rights or privileges of his own unless it is given by his owner. He cannot make major decisions. He is fully governed by the rules of his master. Paul says that a child is like a servant – being fully under the laws of his home. In general, the younger the child then the more rules that are established to govern his behavior because he does not have the knowledge or understanding to make proper decisions until he matures.

Galatians 4:2

But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. The father knows when the child is ready for more. The child is in a learning process that prepares him to handle more responsibilities. After the lessons are learned then the freedom in that area is given.

Galatians 4:3-5

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:
4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Jesus came to take us beyond rules and regulations, and to bring us into full relationship with the Father and the Spirit. Sons are not tied to the law only (the written Word), but they are also free to walk according to the Spirit. Jesus said that His Words are Spirit and they are life (John 6:63). He explained the ministry of the Holy Spirit as the revealer as follows:

John 16:13-14

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

The job of the Holy Spirit is to reveal, guide and teach (John 14:16; 1 John 2:20, 27).

The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit brings it to life. Paul describes it as follows in 2 Corinthians 3:6.

2 Corinthians 3:6

6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

The Word of God and the Holy Spirit now work together in the life of the sons of God. They know what the written word says, and they allow the Spirit bring it to life and to show them how to apply it in everyday circumstances. The Word of God comes off the pages into reality. Understanding goes beyond the literal translation of Bible stories into deeper revelations of what the words mean and how they apply to life today. The Word is written on several levels, and the Holy Spirit must reveal the hidden and secret levels that are hid only for those who will come up higher.

Galatians 4:6-7 talks about adoption into the family of God as sons. Adoption means that we receive all rights and privileges as though we were originally born in the household. We lose our identity in the flesh to attain the identity in the Spirit. We now have the name of our Heavenly Father. There will be a further look into adoption later in this study.

Galatians 4:6-7

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

7 Therefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Everything that Christ has we are now entitled to as joint heirs. We are seated in heavenly places with Him. As sons we have the right to manifest the Father in the earth just as Jesus did when He walked the earth.

Chapter 3

More on Adoption

Let's look at Romans 8. It verifies the right we have as sons through adoption. When someone is adopted into a family they receive that family's names and customs. The old identity is swallowed up into a new identity. After time the adopted son's behaviors and ways of thinking matches the ways of the new family. An adopted son has the same rights and privileges as the son by birth.

This same process occurs in the spirit as we are adopted into the family of God. Adoption gives us total access into everything that Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, receives.

Romans 8:15-17

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Adoption has put us in line to be heirs of the throne of the Father and joint-heirs with Christ. This means that we have everything that Christ has. We have been called to walk in the same authority and position as He did. For example, just as He reigns as king, priests and prophet, we have been called to be a nation of kings and priests. See Revelation 1:6 below.

Revelation 1:6

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:9 supports this verse as we are called a royal priesthood and an holy nation.

As kings we have the authority to speak and declare the kingdom of God into our midst. The kingdom consists of the Father's perfect will for mankind and of spiritual riches and hidden truths. Whenever a king made a declaration, it could not be changed just as the Word cannot return void. As priests we have the right to enter behind the veil where God can speak face to face with us openly (Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 10:19).

In Ephesians 2:6 we learn that we are also seated in heavenly places with Christ.

Ephesians 2:6

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The spirit realm is open for us to enter into and access freely. It is where all things reside. It is the same thing as the kingdom of God that is within us (Luke 17:21). Since the spirit of Christ resides in us and anointed us to be kings and priests we sit jointly with Him upon the throne.

We are predestinated to walk as Jesus. He came to pave the way and to set the example for us as an older brother may set the example for a younger sibling in a family. He is the older brother and He shows us how to walk as sons of God. Romans 8:28-30 tells us the process that we are walking through to become the younger brothers of Christ.

Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Verse 28 tells us that every situation, even if it seems bad, is intended to work something good because we have been called according to His purpose. The next verse explains that His purpose is to form us into the image of His Son Jesus who came to be the older brother of us all. The end of this process is that we would walk in the same glory, or the manifested power and presence of God, as Jesus. When the world sees us, it should see Him.

Hebrews 2:10-11 verifies the above passage. Jesus came and suffered to bring us into oneness with the Father.

Hebrews 2:10-11

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Jesus suffered to bring us into the Father's glory as sons of God. His death sanctifies or sets us apart from the world and brings us into His family. We are now one through the adoption of the Spirit.

Earlier we discussed that as sons we are not bound to the written word only, but we are to be led by the Spirit and the voice of God. As our example, Jesus was not bound to the letter of the law. There were occasions when Jesus healed on the Sabbath. This was considered by the religious leaders of that day to be breaking the law, but Jesus allowed the Father to lead Him. We should study and keep the Word, but still be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit.

Adoption gives us authority to walk as sons through belief in Christ. This adoption puts us in the same position as being born into the family of God. Jesus said that we must be born again (John 3:3). Through rebirth we now have the power, authority, right and the ability to walk as sons of the Father in the earth. See John 1:12-13:

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Jesus gives us the ability to become sons of God. The Spirit according to the Father's will for mankind does this. His will is that all men would wake up to their true identity in Him as sons. We are siblings with Christ, making us heirs to walk in the same power and authority. He is therefore our elder brother who has paved the way for us to walk in the glory and power of the Father in the earth.

Chapter 4

The Meaning of Adoption

As mature sons who have been adopted and reborn into the family of God, we can carry out and enforce everything as Jesus did during His time on earth. Jesus spoke often of doing and saying what He saw from the Father. His goal was to complete the Father's work on earth.

John 4:34

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 5:19

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 5:30

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 8:28

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

As the Son of God Jesus was a direct reflection of the Father. His entire purpose in life was to do His Father's business. He had a direct partnership with the Father.

Since Jesus is our older brother and we are joint-heirs with Him in the family we should carry out the Father's will just as He carried out His will on earth. We have inherited the family business of bringing heaven to earth. We are now co-laborers with the Father, working side-by-side with Him. Paul explains this in 1 Corinthians 3:9.

1 Corinthians 3:9

9 For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

As co-laborers with the Father we can now take initiative to bring His will to the earth. God's original plan for mankind was for it to be enforcers of His will of earth. Genesis 1:26-27 explains His will.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

From the very beginning of time God gave us the commission to be fruitful and to multiply as we are made in His image and likeness. This goes beyond what we look like in the flesh into our calling in the spirit. We are to replenish the earth with His glory, taking authority over and subduing everything that is not like Him. This means that we subdue things like poverty, sickness and spiritual bondages. We can speak and the earth obeys if we speak the Father's will out of a pure heart. 1 John 5:14-15 says that if we ask anything according to His will then we can have the confidence that He hears and answers.

Adam walked in this power to declare the will of God in the earth when he named every animal that was brought before him (Genesis 2:19-20). The things that Adam spoke in the beginning still exist today. Life and death have been placed in our tongues, and now we have the power to create (Proverbs 18:21). If the words of Jesus, who paved the way for us, were spirit and life then our words are powerful (John 6:63).

Now that we know the Father's will we can take initiative by declaring His will around us and watch Him perform our words because they come from His original plan. Mark 16:20 says that the Lord worked with the early Believers by confirming the words that they spoke with signs and wonders. There was a partnership between the Lord and the ones who spoke the words. They spoke with boldness and confidence knowing that the Father would confirm it by performing miracles.

Mark 16:20

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

The Believers knew the Father's will because they heard the teachings of Jesus. It's our job to study the Word and listen to the Spirit so that we may know His will. This knowledge will bring the boldness to declare the Father's will and watch Him perform. This is the partnership that we have as sons who carry out the Father's business in the earth.

Chapter 5

The Relationship of a Son to a Father

As mentioned earlier, fathers and sons share in a partnership of authority and knowledge. The son grows from a servant type of role as a child into an equal relationship of friend with his father. He is no longer under his father only receiving limited information, but is now able to openly share ideas and concepts. He is not under the father's strict rules and regulations as a young child.

Jesus explains the difference between friends and servants in John 15:14-16.

John 15:14-16

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

A friend is someone of equal stature as you. True friends are people around you who you can share the close things of your heart with. The closer the friend is, the more you feel that you can share. Jesus says in verse 15 that He takes us from servants who have limited knowledge to a friend who knows the close treasures of His heart. The result of this friendship is fruitfulness in the kingdom and open access to the Father. We can approach the Father with boldness because we are friends with Jesus.

The Bible makes it clear that God desires to be our friend. Abraham is called the friend of God in 2 Chronicles 20:7 and James 2:23. God was so close with Abraham that He told Abraham about the destruction of Sodom before it happened. Abraham also felt at liberty to openly ask God not to destroy the city on several times, going from asking for sparing of the city for 50 righteous down to 10 righteous people (Genesis 18). Verse 33 describes this event as communion between these friends.

Exodus 33:11-12 describes the relationship between God and Moses who were friends that talked openly face-to-face.

Exodus 33:11-12

11 And the LORD spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

In this scripture, God and Moses are in close dialogue with each other discussing the leading of the children of Israel into the promised land. Moses asks God questions about this mission; God did not hold anything from Moses. He had grace with God, meaning that he had the ability to get His attention. Later in the same chapter, Moses asks the Lord to show His face. This direct request could not be done, but Moses was able to see God's backside.

As sons it gives the Father great privilege to share all things with us. He wants to share the secret treasures of the kingdom. He desires to reveal his plans for our individual lives and for the world around us.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Chapter 6

The World Waits

The world is waiting for the sons of God to walk in the fullness of their power and authority. It longs for someone to bring His will in the earth. We must be fruitful and multiply in the Spirit. Mankind wants to be free from the bondages that hold them bound by sin, sickness, poverty, mental illness and the list goes on. We, as sons of God, have the words of liberty in our mouth.

Romans 8:19-21 tells us that creation waits and groans for the sons of God to come forth and bring hope.

Romans 8:19-21

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Most people are unwillingly held captive by the world's system. Deep within they long to be free, but they don't know how. The deepest part of them groans for someone who walks with the Lord of glory to speak a word of life that will wake them up to who they are in Christ. We as sons are to be fruitful and multiply by bringing forth more people into their sonship.

Isaiah 61:1-2 is the scripture that we can stand on as we take our places in the spirit. It tells us that we have already been anointed to bring deliverance and healing to the world.

Isaiah 61:1-2

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

The good news is that Jesus has given everyone the power to be sons. The purpose behind setting people free is so that they can see the demonstration of the power that they have been created to walk in also. We have been commissioned to make disciples, or followers of our elder brother and example Jesus (Matthew 28:19). He will work with us and confirm our words as we take the first step of speaking His Word.

We have been anointed to take action and enforce God's will. We are to walk as co-laborers, hearing the voice of the Spirit and obeying Him. We have been armed with the gifts of the Spirit in order to get the job done (1 Corinthians 12).