

Our 4th Relationship with God: “ Sons of God ”

Good morning!

INTRODUCTION:

We have been discussing our five relationships with God:

- We are his creation (Post 11)
- We choose loving obedience as bond-slaves (Post 12)
- We walk with Jesus as friends (Post 13)

Now we advance to our fourth relationship with God: **we are invited to become his SONS.**

FATHER GOD CONFIRMS JESUS AS HIS UNIQUE SON:

Jesus leads the way as the unique Son of God. (More on Jesus' relationship to the Father in a future post.)

God confirms Jesus as his Son at his baptism:

Luke 3:21 '... heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

God confirms Jesus as Son at his transfiguration:

Luke 9:35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

God confirms Jesus as Son during Passion Week:

John 12:28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

GOD DESIRES TO ADOPT AS SONS:

The amazing plan of God is to transform us, who are all fallen sinful creatures, into his adopted sons.

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 9:8 In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

John 1: 12 Yet to all who did receive Son Jesus, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

FOR THE LADIES:

For our lady readers who may feel discriminated against by the New Testament talking about "the sons of God," understand that you are included as "sons".

In the ancient world (as in some cultures today) sons were valued more than daughters. But under the New Covenant, the standing of women has been dramatically elevated. Roles do vary for men and women, but spiritual standing before God is identical. As such both men and women together are referred to as "children of God".

Galatians 3:26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(NOTE: On the flip side, we men are included in the Bride of Christ!)

SOME ASPECTS OF BEING SONS (CHILDREN) OF GOD:

- We are a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy

2 Corinthians 6:18 *And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

- We are deeply loved by our heavenly father

1 John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

- Jesus unifies us into one People (see also Ephesians 2:11-22)

John 11: 51 *...[the High Priest] prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, ⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together*

- We are true descendants of Abraham

Galatians 3:7 *Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.*

- We are recipients of his Holy Spirit

Luke 11:13 *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Galatians 4:6 *Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

Romans 8:14 *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

- In Jesus we have continual access to the Father

Ephesians 2:18 *For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

- We are heirs with Christ Jesus

Galatians 4:7 *So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has also made you an heir.*

Romans 8:17 *Now if we are children, then we are heirs —heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

- We are children of Light

John 12:36 *"Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light."*

Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.*

- We choose to live holy, righteous, and loving lives

Philippians 2:14 *Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.*

1 John 3:10 *Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.*

- We are peacemakers

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

Matthew 5:44 *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*

- We are disciplined by God as his children

Hebrews 12:5 *"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."*

- When Jesus returns, we shall be transformed to be like him

Romans 8:23 *...we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.*

1 John 3:2 *But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him....*

- Friends come and go – Sons are forever

Psalms 23:6 *... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

QUESTION: Do you know for sure you are a son of God?

NEXT WEEK: *Our 5th Relationship with God!*

God bless you-

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