

Whose Child Are You?

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Introduction: One of our greatest needs in life is to see ourselves as God sees us.

- A. When God looks at us it is without error.
 - 1. This clear view is why God's word is so powerful. (**Heb 4:11-13**)
 - 2. Men however seek to hide from what they need to see. (**Isa 5:21; Prov 16:2**)
 - 3. For this reason we need to constantly test ourselves by His word.
(**2 Cor 13:5**)
- B. Our study today will examine a Bible term that is often misunderstood.
 - 1. In the Bible what does it mean to be called a "child of" something?
 - 2. The book of first John has much to say about what it means to be a "child of God." What does this mean? (**1 John 3:10**)
 - 3. It is my prayer that each of us might see just whose child we really are.

I. We show by our actions whose child we are.

- A. We show by our actions whose child we are!
 - 1. To be a "child of" or "son of" something means: "to possess the characteristics or qualities of a person. It denotes something possessed to a great degree and is often a moral quality." We might say: "He really is a son of his father!"
 - 2. This is how John taught Christians to determine who they are! (**1 Jn 3:7-10**)
 - 3. What is the common practice of your life?
- B. Consider some in the New Testament who were called "children of" something.
 - 1. James and John were called "sons of thunder." Why? (**Mk 3:17**)
 - a. Did they remain this way?
 - b. We can be a "son of" something and change by the power of God.
 - 2. The disciples were to seek out sons of peace. What were these like? (**Lk 10:6**)
 - 3. Who are the sons of the world? ..the sons of light? (**Lk 16:8**)
 - a. Here we see the outstanding characteristic of these individuals.
 - b. Could we also say they were "walking Bibles?"
 - 4. Who are the "children of the bridechamber?" (**Mt 9:15 KJV**)
 - a. These are attendants. They are closely associated with the wedding.
 - b. What is the primary characteristic of your life?

II. We are a child of our father.

- A. Jesus discussed with the Jews: "Who is a child of Abraham?"
 - 1. Here is was not discussing lineage but personal characteristics! (**Jn 8:37-40**)
 - 2. The Jews were quick to proclaim themselves children of God, but were they? (**Jn 8:41-47**)
 - a. How many are on church directories but are not children of God?
 - b. What is your attitude towards the word of God? Are you moved by a "thus saith the Lord" or are you overconfident and hardened?
 - 3. Are you a "child of Abraham?" (**Gal 3:7; Rom 4:16**)

- a. Here we have the mark of a Christian! Where is your heart?
- b. Can one who runs from the hard choices be a child of Abraham?
- B. If you are not a child of God you are a child of Satan!
 - 1. Anyone who has not submitted to God is under the "prince of this world."
(Eph 2:2-3; Acts 13:10)
 - 2. A person can be a good moral man and still be a child of the Devil!
 - 3. If one will not fully submit their lives to God then Satan has them.
(Mt 12:30)
 - 4. The Jews could be full of the knowledge from God's word and still be a child of the Devil! **(Jn 8:44-45; Mt 23:29-32)**
 - a. The Pharisees were the most popular of religious leaders.
 - b. They were know to "overlook" their own sins and those of their party.
 - 5. In marriage I have heard it said: "If you marry a child of the Devil you will have trouble from your father-in-law!"

III. How can we be Children of God?

- A. There must be a change of heart and a change of relationship.
 - 1. This occurs at conversion. **(Gal 3:26-29)**
 - 2. If the heart is not touched then one has only become wet.
- B. We must continue being children of God!
 - 1. If we decide to withdraw into our own little clique in anger then we have ceased being children of God. **(Mt 5:44-48)**
 - 2. Sometimes I hear the argument for "once saved, always saved" when one says: "Can a child of God be unborn?"
 - 3. John showed that our hearts determine whose child we are! Our hearts can change. **(1 John 3:10; Heb 3:12-13)**
- C. Consider how a child of God responds to various things.
 - 1. Personal hurts and anger. **(Eph 4:31-5:2)**
 - 2. The wife who submits to her husband. **(1 Pet 3:5-6)**
 - 3. The battle against false religion. **(2 Cor 6:14-18)**
 - a. Some in the name of "open mindedness" have shown who they are!
 - b. Does "doctrine" mean anything to you? **(2 Jn 9)**
 - 4. The chance to encourage my brethren. **(Acts 4:36)**
 - 5. A personal examination of the scriptures. **(Rom 8:15-16)**

Conclusion: God wants you to see clearly were you are.

- A. Too many people have a mask, it needs to be ripped off!
- B. What is the end of those who never respond to Christ?
 - 1. They are children of wrath. **(Eph 2:2; Jn 17:12)**
 - 2. They are "sons of hell." **(Mt 23:15)**
- C. To be a child of God is to know where you are going! **(1 Thess 5:5)**
 - 1. It is sad to see the meaningless lives so many are living.
 - 2. You can come to a life full of meaning by becoming a child of God.