

We are Sons of God!

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Introduction: There is great power found in the kind of home you come from.

- A. It is moving to hear an account of someone who was adopted into a godly family!
 - 1. In the home we are nurtured, instructed, disciplined and loved.
 - 2. Our God has chosen to adopt us! **(Eph 1:4-6)**
 - 3. Imagine being a son of the king. Now imagine being a son of the almighty God!
- B. We should daily remember the basis of our adoption.
 - 1. It was not because we were loveable.
 - 2. Never forget where you came from Christian! **(Eph 2:1-3)**

I. Sonship has its privileges.

- A. What did Moses give up when he sided with the Israelites? **(Heb 11:24-26)**
 - 1. He was considered an heir to the power and riches in Egypt. These riches are temporary and do not satisfy.
 - 2. He gladly surrendered that for a fulfilling life with suffering and a future inheritance in Christ.
 - 3. Here is the power of faith. We trust God and are willing to sacrifice the present temporary pleasures for the present fellowship with God and the future blessings in Him.
- B. If we do not maintain a living faith we can sell out our inheritance.
 - 1. Have you seen the commercial where they say: "It's my money and I want it now!" What will you take for your inheritance? **(Mt 16:26)**
 - 2. There are many who become like Esau. **(Heb 12:16-17)**
 - 3. I have seen parents who raised their children "in the church" to later immediately follow their children when they leave the Lord.
 - 4. Human relationships cause many to "so soon" give up the gospel to accommodate the religions of men. **(Gal 1:6)**
 - 5. How many are now apologizing for their former stand for the Lord? **(Heb 10:28)**

II. Sonship has its responsibilities

- A. We must die in order to be adopted.
 - 1. By faith we were baptized into Christ and are now heirs! **(Gal 3:26-29)**
 - 2. In this new birth we have died and are raised to a new life. **(Col 3:1-3, 10)**
 - 3. How do I know if I have been born again? What is your attitude towards the instructions from God?
 - 4. A worldly person wearing the mask of a Christian will be miserable. They will view correction as "bashing" and "hating."
- B. Discernment becomes a way for the son of God.
 - 1. Looking at God's word, testing what is right and wrong and a true desire to see the application of God's way is what sons of God do! **(Eph 5:3-8)**
 - 2. Sons of God want their teachings, practices, languages and thoughts challenged.
 - 3. The stand we take on doctrinal issues, moral issues and our fellowship will be hated by the worldly.

4. The mask wearers in the church will proclaim such as stand as being judgmental, pharisaical, full of despair and “negative”.
5. We would do well to take a serious look at what we watch, read, and think about. Also look at the pattern in your relationships. Whose son are you?

III. God molds and nourishes His sons

- A. Our God will make provisions to constantly change you. **(Heb 12:5-11)**
 1. Change is not easy.
 2. Suffering, rebuke and even doubt can be tools God uses to mold us.
 3. What is your attitude towards the correction god’s word gives? **(Jn 3:19-21)**
- B. We must as sons insist on the will of God without compromise or change.
 1. Jesus pointed out this very attitude in His ministry. **(Jn 8:28-29)**
 2. Many today are saying that brethren need the instructions of great theologians so we may properly learn how to read scripture.
 3. I am amazed at how quickly Eldershops and members have embraced an approach to scripture where they in fact become judges of the law.
 4. Sons of God will insist on book, chapter and verse for their teaching and practice in order to glorify God as Jesus did! **(1 Pt 4:11)**
 5. Do you want to be led by the Spirit of God or by “great men?” **(Rom 8:14-17)**
- C. Our God will providentially allow us to be tested. **(1 Pt 1:6-7; James 1:2-3)**
 1. Do you remember significant crossroads in your life?
 2. There comes a time where you break up a dating relationship or a friendship for the Lord. It may be a job or an opportunity to advance in something you deeply care about.
 3. Churches are faced with issues they must face and take a stand on. **(2 Cor 2:9)**
 4. As parents we must wisely act when our children are tested!

IV. God gives us a glimpse of our inheritance

- A. In the midst of suffering and tests we develop hope! **(Rom 5:3-5)**
 1. Hope is based on the certain promises of God.
 2. A living faith does not direct us to man-made doctrines such as “the imputation of the life of Christ” or as some describe as “continuous cleansing.”
 3. We have our assurance based upon the certain promises of God and the character of the God who gave them. **(Heb 6:17-19)**
- B. Our association with Christians is a taste of our inheritance.
 1. How do you view getting closer to other Christians? How do you view the opportunities that come with assembling with other Christians? **(Heb 10:23-25)**
 2. We are a family of God and joint heirs! This is what must be our basis for our togetherness. **(Eph 3:6)**
 3. Marry an heir of God! **(1 Pt 3:7)**
- C. Our present relationship with God is a taste of our inheritance. **(2 Cor 1:21-22)**
 1. Please do not let your faith grow weak.
 2. When we see the unseen then we can have an abundant life! **(Jn 10:10)**

Conclusion: Are you ready to be adopted as a son?