

Sonship

Key Verse

Galatians 3:26 - You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (NIV)

Opening Questions

How do you view God?

How do you think God views you?

Exploring the Bible

What's the big deal about Sonship?

Matthew 11:11 - I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (NIV)

Who is greater than John the Baptist?

Answer:

There were many great prophets such as Moses, Samuel, Daniel, and of course, John the Baptist. Yet, as a kingdom citizen, no matter what your status and position, you are greater than any of those great prophets. Your greatness comes simply because you are a beloved son or daughter of the God of this universe.

Three Things about Sonship

1. The Reality of Sonship

Galatians 3:26 - You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (NIV)

How do you become a son of God?

Answer:

How did you get saved?

Answer:

Remember, when you got saved you also became a son of God.

2. The Assurance of Sonship

Romans 8:15-16 - For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father". The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

What did we receive from God when we got saved?

Answer:

How are we assured of our sonship?

How does God's Spirit testify with our Spirit about our sonship?

- Inner confidence that we are born again
- Desire for the things of God, God's word, fellowship with God's people
- A freedom to call God our "Papa God"

3. The Authority of Sonship

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

If we have received Jesus Christ as our savior, what do we have the right to do?

Answer:

The word "right" actually means "authority." We have the authority to become children of God. Being called a son of God is not just a nice religious phrase. We have the legal authority from God to have the title of God's son.

Why would we need authority to become a son of God?

Answer:

The devil will try to challenge our sonship. We need to know that we legally belong to God as His son and can come to Him at any time for anything.

Where is the Love?

It is great to know that I am a child of God, a son of God, and that God assures me of this and that I have the authority to call myself God's child. But, what about the love? Does God really love me? Or am I just another kid in the family?

1. Our Father's Love

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

What has the Father lavished on us?

Answer:

What does it mean that the Father has lavished love on us?

Answer:

2. Experiencing the Father's Love

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

Who loved us first?

Answer:

We must receive his love before we can love him and love others.

When we receive His love, it produces love and passion for God and others. It becomes the driving force of obedience. The Word of God needs to give the correct picture of God. The Holy Spirit is our teacher. But each person must learn to hear God speak to them. You must learn to hear Him as a loving father.

Practical Exercise

Are you hearing the Father speak to you?

It is the privilege and right that you have as a child of God to talk to directly to your Heavenly Father and to hear Him speak to you. He wants to speak to you and communicate His love for you.

When God speaks to you, it probably won't be with an audible voice. God's Holy Spirit lives within you. His Spirit will communicate with our spirit. We will perceive this many times as thoughts in our mind. He will speak to us about many things, but the most important thing about which He wants to speak to us is to communicate His awesome love for us as His children.

There are a couple of practical exercises you can do to begin hearing your Heavenly Father speak to you.

Exercise 1: Close your eyes. Then simply say, "Father, I love you?" and listen for His response to you.

Exercise 2: Close your eyes. Then say this simple prayer, "Father, what do you want to say to me?" Then be still and listen for what He says to you.