



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

IDENTITY - PART 2 - SONSHIP

Last week we looked at our starting point or our beginning position, when it came to knowing who we are in Christ.

Q. Without looking at any notes, what is key to knowing who we are?

The second question I want to ask us all from last week is...

Q. How do we come into the this true knowledge?

There is only one way we come to know who God is and there is only one way we come to know who we are, and they are exactly the same way. Failure to come into this one way, will leave us with a theoretical knowledge of God and who we are in God, but unfortunately, this knowledge is not enough to have us living lives in alignment to who God is and who we are in Him.

Knowing you are a son of God theoretically isn't the issue. It's living as a son that is. I want us to look at the characteristic of sonship or being a son of God in this resource. As mentioned it's one thing to know you are a son in principle but what does it look like to live as a son in person?

The Son, Jesus Christ is the perfect role model of who we are to be, become and live like, as a son of God. Not being able to live as a son of God, doesn't mean I am not a son, but it does mean I don't really know who I am. A life of sonship lived out is the evidence I know who I am, because truth is self evident.

Let's have a look at one of the most powerful passages of Scripture on identity in relation to "sonship".

Galatians 4:1-7 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

We can see from this first verse that it is fully possible to be an heir of God, meaning to be His son, but because we only know this in principle our entire lives, we never grow up and we stay as a child, which means we do not differ from a slave or an orphan. We end up living as orphans or slaves, as opposed to living as mature sons, royalty, heirs of our Father's kingdom.

How can I know if I really am a son in person and not just in principle? My life will be telling me. What I believe, the way I think, the way I speak, what I treasure and prioritise and the way I live. Sons don't need to be reminded they are sons or who their Father is, or that they have influence, because they innately live this way.

To not be living like this is to be still living under the control of the flesh. God sent Christ so we could come out from under the flesh and live as spiritual sons of God. We can't be happy with the mere approval of a doctrine called 'sonship', but we must enter into the corresponding actuality of His words which are spirit and life. Anything



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less than this is just living in and from a form of godliness.

Sons are a people of incredible affluence, because they know they are royalty, heir's of their Father's kingdom and what their Father owns is theirs. They have inherited and possessed this affluence because of the true knowledge they hold and it is with this affluence that they influence every single person they come into contact with.

Matthew 25:29 "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away."

A slave or an orphan will insulate themselves with their affluence. They will guard, protect and fight to keep what they have and will always look to gain more for themselves, not worrying who they stand on to get what they are after. They always take care of self first.

Luke 12:15-21 Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

We can see the complete opposite posture from these two passages. The son gives away knowing that His Father is His source and resource, while the orphan or the slave holds on tight to what they have, trusting in themselves to supply their every need. The challenge then becomes which one are we currently. A son of principle (slave or orphan) or a son of person (heir).

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it would be like to be the person in the passage of Luke who lives for themselves, only to realise that you have missed the mark?
2. Why is it that sons don't need to be reminded that they are sons or doubt that they are sons or encouraged to be sons?
3. Why is knowing you are a son of God so powerful in building our lives now on earth?
4. How many of us can relate to being given more and having an abundance, because of being a son who influences others with their affluence?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight?