



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

IDENTITY - PART 6 - SONSHIP

John 13:3-5 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Q. As sons of God, is this the heart posture and position that one does all their serving God and man from?

It is from this position of identity, that all of our service unto God and man is to be accomplished. Anything less than this is to be serving from a fleshly dimension, which finds you operating from your own strength, based around specific terms and conditions and a legalistic spirit. This is NOT the heart position we are to be serving God and others from as sons and if we are, we need to confess this posture and repent from it.

One good way to know if you are serving God and man from this fleshly demonic posture is to take account of the language you use, and the attitudes of your heart, when it comes to service. If you find yourself using words like, "I should" or "I have to" or "I ought to", "It's so hard", and you look for affirmation and appreciation from serving, then these are great indicators of a legalistic spirit operating in and from you.

I have been to many conferences where leaders get up and talk about washing peoples feet as acts of humility, but the reality is, unless one knows the Father and what is concealed in the Father, along with who one is and where one is from and going, then acts of service can all be a puffed up demonstration of arrogance, no matter how humble the external act might look to the natural eye.

Sons of God don't act from their own initiative or from what they feel or think is a good thing to do. Sons are led by the Spirits leading, being empowered on the inside by the Spirit and only following His promptings. This is how Jesus lived His life as a Son and how we are to live our lives as sons. Anything less than this is just good fleshly works which get burnt up at our judgment seat, because they are not works of righteousness by faith.

Living from our identity in Christ as sons, knowing where we are from and where we are going, is the only posture in which works for Christ are to be accomplished. Jesus is very interested in why we do what we do and the true motive and posture of our hearts. He knows if we operate from insecurity, selfish ambition, jealousy, envy, pride, legalism, lust or whether we operate from knowing who we are in Him and His love within us.

Matthew 25:11-12 Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'

1 Corinthians 8:3 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His".

The problem with these 5 virgins is that they didn't know as they ought to have known and so hear these words, 'I do not know you', and yet we can see in Corinthians that if anyone loves God he is known by God. Then we see in Timothy that the Lord knows who are His.



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This is the conclusion we draw from these 3 Scriptures of Truth.

God knows those who truly love Him and those who say they do, but don't.

Acts of service for Christ and others, is not the evidence that one loves Christ or that these acts are of, or accomplished in, Christ.

In other words, God knows those who are truly His, who only do works inspired and empowered by Him, as opposed to those who give Him lip service, who love themselves and live for themselves. This is the difference between the 5 virgins who enter in and the 5 virgins who don't. 5 virgins were deceived by themselves and what they thought they knew.

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

James 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

Sons who become the bride of Christ are those who love God with all their entire being, live from their identity in Christ, having His power operating from within them, accomplishing all the God centred, inspired, empowered and led works by faith.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it essential that all works are accomplished from His love in us and our identity in Christ as sons?
2. What is the difference between a flesh work and a righteous work?
3. Why is being deceived so deceptive to our fellowship in Christ?
4. How do you know if you are operating from His love in you and your identity in Christ as a son?

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