



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

IDENTITY - PART 7 - SONSHIP

Hebrews 12:6-11 *For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives .” It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.*

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

1. The Lord disciplines those He loves.
2. If you are without discipline by which you are a partaker, you are illegitimate children.
3. He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness

These are just 3 of many powerful statements of truth from these passages of Scripture. Other passages of Scriptures also use the analogy of athletes who discipline themselves so as to receive the prize and box in certain ways as to hit the mark.

Q. How disciplined are you when it comes to your relationship with God?

Q. How disciplined are you when it comes to other areas of your life?

Q. Why is disciplining yourself easy or hard?

Discipline is an absolute need for every son of God if we want to be partakers of all the eternal life that is concealed and contained within the Son. The Scripture says we are to be trained by discipline because it yields or produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Without discipline Paul is very clear, one is an illegitimate child. The follower who thinks and believes that it is just about Jesus being one's Saviour is profoundly mistaken. Jesus needs to be our Lord as well as our Saviour. A son who is not under the Lordship of Christ is not a true worshipper of Christ, because spiritual worship is the laying down of one's life due to Christ being the Messiah.

Romans 12:1 *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

The question then remains.

Q. What are we to be partakers of?

1 Timothy 4:6-8 gives us an insight in to this question.

1 Timothy 4:6-10 *In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it*



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of believers.

Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness!!!!!!!!!! Why would we do this? Because godliness is profitable for all things. We are to be partakers of all things in God. Godliness is profitable for this present life and for the life to come. This is a trustworthy statement.

The life to come!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yes, the life to come or the age to come, as well as the life now, are to be what we are partakers of. Do we have a reference for not only the full life in Christ for the now, but also for the life or the age that is to come, which is the future? Unfortunately, many followers don't because we are not disciplined in our relationship with Christ. Our devotion to Christ is poor and it wavers depending on how we are feeling at any given time. Paul was extremely afraid for the Corinthian church that they had been deceived and led astray from this devotion to Him and him alone, choosing the devotion of idols above their devotion to Christ, because of their lack of discipline.

If Paul was physically with us today, I think he would be just as afraid as he was back then, if not more so.

God disciplines His sons for their good so we may share in His holiness. Discipline is a positive aspect of being in Christ. It is not optional but a necessity for every son. Sons who are not disciplined are more likely to be in forms of godliness rather than godliness itself. Sons who are not disciplined will have their reverence for God all wrapped up in their traditions learnt by rote, while sons who are disciplined will have their reverence for God in what God is showing them from the unseen realm.

Isaiah 29:13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honour Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Q. Which one are you?

Discipline yourself. Discipline is each sons responsibility. No one can discipline themselves for another. You have to learn to be disciplined by the Father and then discipline yourself. It is each son's responsibility and no one else's. Bodily discipline is only of little profit, while spiritual discipline for godliness is the key to life.

QUESTIONS

1. How much testimony can we bring forth in relation to this present life due to our discipline in Christ?
2. How much testimony can we bring forth in relation to the life or age to come due to our discipline in Christ?

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