



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

IDENTITY - PART 2 (SECOND LANGUAGE)

Last week we looked at where we need to start to know who we are in Christ.

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

Q. How do we get this true knowledge?

There is only one way we can know who God is. There is only one way we can know who we are. They are exactly the same way. If we don't use the right way, we may only have a book knowledge of God and a book knowledge of who we are. Book or head knowledge cannot help us live our lives in the way God wants us to live.

The problem is not knowing that you are a son of God. The problem is living like a son of God. In this lesson we will look at the characteristic of sonship, or being a son of God. We can know that we are a son of God as an idea, but what does it really mean to live as a son of God?

Jesus Christ is God's son. Therefore, Jesus is the perfect model of what living as a son of God should be like and look like. If I am not able to live like Jesus, it does not mean that I am not a son of God. It means that I do not really know who I am. If I can live like Jesus Christ, then it shows that I do know who I am. The truth is obvious.

Let us look at a powerful passage that talks about our identity as sons.

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.

Or in other words;

Galatians 4:1-7 I will say it like this. Think about an heir (a son who will one day receive what belongs to his father). While he is still a child, he is like a slave in the family. That is true, even though all his father's things really belong to him. He has to wait until the time that his father has decided. Until then, the son has to obey his teachers and the guides who take care of him. In the same way, we were children like that. We were slaves to the things of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son into the world. A human mother gave birth to him. He was born a Jew, under the authority of God's Law. In that way, he set us free from the authority of the Law. Before that, we were like slaves under the Law. But God's Son paid our debt, so that God would adopt us as his true sons. Because we are his sons, God has sent his Son's Spirit to live inside us. His Spirit causes us to call God, 'Father, my Father'. So, you are not slaves any more, but you are God's sons. And because you are His son, you are an heir of God.

This passage shows us that we can be an heir (a son of God). If we know this only as an idea, we may never grow up. If we stay as a child, we are the same as a slave or an orphan. Then we will live like a slave or an orphan. Instead, we should be living like a son of God - like a royal heir of our Father's Kingdom.

How can I know if I am really living as a son and not just knowing it as an idea? My life will tell me. My life will



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

show it in what I believe and what I think. My life will show it in the way I speak. My life will show what I treasure (value) and what I place first. Sons will live like sons of God without needing to be reminded of who they are and who their Father is. That is just who they are.

If you don't live like a son, you are still living under the control of the flesh (your natural self without God). God sent His son, Jesus Christ, so that we can stop living under the control of the flesh and we can live as sons of God. We can't be (complete) happy unless we are living as sons of God. Anything else is just living in a form of Godliness (a weak imitation). A weak copy.

Sons are very wealthy because they know they are royal heirs of the Father's Kingdom. What the father owns is theirs. They have this wealth because they know that they are sons of God. Sons affect or change every person they meet.

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."*

Or in other words;

Matthew 25:29 *Some people have received good things. They will all receive even more and have lots of good things. Some other people have nothing. Those people will lose even the little bit that they do have.*

A slave or orphan will try to protect themselves with wealth. They will guard and fight to keep what they have. They always want more for themselves. They don't care who they hurt to get what they want. They always take care of themselves before others.

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."*

Or in other words;

Luke 12:15-21 *Then he said to all the people, 'Be very careful! Do not want more things than you really need. The life of a person is not measured by the things that he has. Even if he is very rich, that is still true.' Jesus then told them a story: 'A man had some very good ground, that grew lots of good plants for food. He thought to himself "What will I do? I have nowhere to store all the food from my plants,". Then he said "I will pull down the buildings where I now store my food. Then I will build bigger buildings to store it all, as well as everything else that is mine. Then I will say to myself, 'You have plenty of things stored safely. These will be enough for you for many years. Now you can live an easy life. Eat and drink as much as you want. Enjoy yourself.'" But then God said to the man, "You are a fool! Tonight you will die. You will have to leave everything behind that you have stored. Somebody else will have them, but you will not!"' Jesus then said, 'This is what happens to people who store things only for themselves and are not rich toward God.'*

The last two scriptures show two opposite positions. The Son can give things away because he knows that His wealth comes from His Father. The orphan or the slave holds on tight to what they have. They trust only in themselves to get what they need. Which one are we? Are we a son only as an idea (a slave or orphan) or a son in



IDENTITY

SONSHIP

person (an heir of Christ)?

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it would be like to be a person like in Luke 12? What would it be like to live for yourself and then find out you lived for all the wrong things?
2. Why don't sons need to be reminded that they are sons? Why don't they doubt they are sons?
3. Why is knowing you are a son of God so powerful in living our lives on earth?
4. Do you feel that you are being given more and more because you are a son who can affect or change others with your wealth?

ACTION POINT: What do we need to do from our reading and discussion tonight?