

“No Longer Orphans”
January 27, 2013

Core Value: *“We receive our identity from the Father, living in the settled confidence that we are much-loved children, accepted in the Beloved.”*

John 14:18- *“I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you.”*

- Those Jesus was speaking to were not literal orphans (*i.e., James, John, Peter, Andrew*). The fact is, the Father sees all of us as orphans.
- These words Jesus spoke were actually the Father’s words—the Father’s perspective. (*“The Father told me what to say & how to say it” John 12:49 The Message*)

1. FRUIT of the Orphan Spirit

- Many interpersonal issues are rooted in the fact that we have been “orphaned.”
- From family disputes to church fights to strained friendships to wars between nations...
- When Adam & Eve revolted against God, they not only lost their title deed to Eden—they moved from the place of continually experiencing the Father’s love for them. They became ORPHANS!

2. ROOT of the Orphan Spirit

- The nature of sin is rejecting God—a revolt against His authority.
- The lie that deceived Adam & Eve was rooted in Lucifer’s revolt:
 - Isaiah 14:12- *“Lucifer”- the Light-Bearer; Brilliant One*
 - Ezekiel 28:14-15- *“You were the anointed cherub (archangel) who covers. I established you. You were on the holy mountain of God. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created; until iniquity was found in you.”*
 - *“Iniquity”- the deep-rooted ambition to replace God with yourself—so that YOU are the ultimate authority in your life (i.e., “You’re not the boss of me!”)*
 - Isaiah 14:13- *“I will make myself like (in the place of) the Most High.” (NOTE: Same spirit in the Garden—“You shall be as (in the place of) God.”*
 - Satan’s revolt: *“I do not want to have a father. I refuse to be a son. No one is going to be over me. I am not subject to anyone. I choose the orphan lifestyle.”*
 - He wants to make us orphans, too. Ephesians 2:2- *“to tell you how to live...filling your lungs with polluted unbelief—then exhaled disobedience.”*

- “Orphan” (John 14:18)- *without parents; lacking protection and guidance*”
- “SIN” is much more than “missing the mark”—it’s missing the Father and living an orphaned life.

3. MARKS of the Orphaned Life

a. ABANDONED. Uncared for.

Orphans say: *“Whatever. I don’t care. Doesn’t bother me.”* What they are really saying is: *“NO ONE cares. I don’t matter to anyone.”*

Sons say: *“I am so cared for. The Lord will watch over my coming and going both now and forevermore” (Ps. 121:8)*

b. INSIGNIFICANT. No name. No sense of belonging.

(W/o history or legacy. W/o identity.)

- **WHY** some people don’t **CONNECT**. (Living in rejection—they reject before they’re rejected). **WHY** they “**FORSAKE ASSEMBLING**”—I may **attend**, but I won’t **attach**.
- **WHY** some **STRIVE** to **EARN SIGNIFICANCE**—make a “name” for themselves. (If you want to **FEEL** important—you must **DO** something important).
- **BUT** sons find their significance by **BELONGING**—being loved & cherished for who they **ARE**.” (Why **MOSES** said- “I’m tired of wandering. I want to be **SENT**” (Exodus 3:13). (Why **JESUS** said, “As the Father has sent Me, so I send you, too.” (John 20:21)

c. WITHOUT INHERITANCE. No provision.

(You’re on your own. No one’s going to give you anything. Look out for #1.)

- **Struggle to be GENEROUS**. (*If you give it away—you’ll never get it back. Struggle to believe that anyone will give you something (w/o strings attached)*)
- **Governed by a sense of LACK**. (*“Not enough to go around.” Hard to rejoice with others. If one receives honor—less for you; jealousy & insecurity*)
- **Sons**: “Freely receive—freely give. My Father is **wealthy & generous**. He gives good gifts. He’s a good Shepherd—I’ll never be in want.”

d. TRUST ISSUES. Nagging sense of uncertainty.

- Resist change—striving to control a world that feels out of control

RESPONSE:

PSALM 73:21-28 The Message

The “orphan spirit” is not a demon—can’t be “cast out.”

It’s a condition of the heart—can only be displaced by the Father’s love.

(i.e., from the Well to the Well-spring)