

“Becoming Sons & Daughters”
February 3, 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.”*

2 Cor. 6:18- *“I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons & daughters.”*

PROP- Our Father is taking us progressively from being a HOSPITAL (being healed) → FAMILY (being nurtured) → COMMUNITY (being responsible, loyal) → ARMY (being sent to transform the world) [child → son/daughter]

Romans 8:15- *“You have received the spirit of sonship” (Holy Spirit will teach us how to live as true sons/daughters to our kind, strong, and fully-engaged Father)*

TRUE SONS HAVE:

1. An OBEDIENT Heart

Philippians 2:19-22- *“...Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”*

(Lit.- tested and proven to be trustworthy)

1 Corinthians 13:11- *“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.”*

(“Put aside”- the end of a phase; got you here—insufficient to get you where you need to go)

CHILD- receives love & begins to learn Father’s ways

SON- receives increased responsibility & becomes responsible

****SEE JOHN 14:15-31 (NOTE: LOVE and OBEDIENCE go hand-in-hand)**

2. An OPEN Heart

Paul, as a spiritual father: *“We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.” (2 Cor. 6:11-13)*

- Many people lack an intimate relationship with earthly parents
- Those w/ closed hearts to natural fathers—same to heavenly Father
- Why a vital part to revival—the restoration of hearts (Malachi 4:6)

Jesus modeled an openhearted relationship with His Father. They rejoiced together. Wept together. In Jesus' most difficult moment, we get a priceless glimpse at this quality relationship (See Matt. 26:38-42).

- Intimacy happens in an atmosphere of vulnerability and transparency. (NOTE: It's not about "getting our act together" but about "getting our hearts together!")
- Being "childlike" is not an excuse for irresponsibility.
- We can "put aside" childishness—w/o ever losing childlike dependence.

3. A CHILDLIKE Heart

"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:18-21)

- Creation (all of humanity) waits to see a gloriously free family of His sons and daughters!
- Jesus lived in a contagiously innocent purity and joyful childlikeness.
- When He exclaimed, "Thanks, Father, for revealing your amazing secrets to those with childlike hearts" (Matthew 11:25)—He was revealing His own heart's posture toward His Father—it's how He received—with a childlike heart!
- He lived in childlike dependence: "The Son can do nothing of Himself" (John 5:19).
 - Some of the most godly people I have known—are the most childlike in heart
 - They simply believe God
 - They know how to enjoy life
- See *SONSHIP* by James Jordan (page 149), paragraph 2.

RESPONSE

2 Corinthians 6:18- "I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty."