

SON OF GOD (Part 4)

Romans 8:19

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Notice, creation is waiting on the manifestation of the sons of God. Understand, this doesn't mean that the sons of God do not exist. It simply means that their identity has not yet been revealed!

1 John 3:2

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

The reason why it doesn't APPEAR like we are "sons of God" is because, at this present moment, we're sons of God BY FAITH.

Galatians 3:26 American Standard Version

²⁶ For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus.

Moreover, if you have something by faith, it means that you do not have it by manifestation (i.e. you cannot see it).

Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 Common English Bible

¹ Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see.

Notice, faith is the reality of what we hope for even though we don't SEE it. So, just because you can't see something, doesn't mean it's not real! Our sonship is real. We just don't see it yet. Now, this is very different than saying we just don't know it yet. We know that we are sons because God said it. (Otherwise, there would be nothing upon which to base our faith.) Our problem is, we don't yet see that we are sons.

That simple distinction is what separates biblical faith from the kind of faith most people have. Most people view faith as believing in the unknown. However, biblical faith is NOT about believing in the unknown. Instead, biblical faith believes in what God has made known. In other words, we believe because God SAID it, not because we SEE it.

Now, for those who think this is impossible, just remember that we do the same with doctors. We believe the doctor when he tells us that we have cancer, even though we can't physically see the cancer. Well, if we do this with doctors, why can't we do this with God? Why can't we believe when God tells us that our cancer is gone, even before we ever see it!

Now, it's not enough to simply believe that it's real. We must walk and act like it's real. If we apply this to our sonship we would say, "It's not enough to believe we're sons of God, we must behave like sons of God!"

HOW DO SONS OF GOD BEHAVE?

Galatians 4:1–3, 9

¹ Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; ² But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. ³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: ⁹ But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

The “elements” mentioned in these verses refer to external rules that shape how we think and act. These rules are “beggarly” (poor) and “weak” (powerless) to give us what we need. They are what you give to children to keep them occupied or dependent. The Bible uses the term “elements” to refer to:

PHILOSOPHY/HUMAN TRADITION

Colossians 2:8

⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Some examples of this are...

- Finding your identity (value) in your career or success, rather than finding it in God.
- Becoming more social-conscious (caring what society thinks), rather than God-conscious (caring what God thinks).
- Looking to men (therapists) to tell us how to *manage* life, rather than going to God and asking Him to transform our life.
- Looking to politics (political structures) for solutions, rather than looking to God.

RELIGION/HUMAN TRADITIONS

Colossians 2:16, 20

¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ²⁰ Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

People also use religion to make people dependent and think that they're doing something when they're not.

- Keeping the Sabbath
- Baptized in Jesus' Name
- Praying to Saints/Angels
- Tithing

The “sons of God” are not slaves to the elements (or systems) of this world.

Colossians 3:1–2

¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Our affection (or mind) should be on God and not these man-made “systems” that are on the earth.

Romans 8:14–15

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

A true son is led by God's Spirit. We should be allowing God to tell us what to do (and when to do it), rather than relying on men to tell us how to move forward. (I'm not saying that having schedules or routines are wrong. I'm saying don't become so dependent or in bondage to them that you use them to justify yourself or judge others.)

In addition to walking according to the Spirit, behaving like a “son” requires suffering.

Romans 8:16–17

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

In the Bible, being an “heir” is associated with being a “son.”

Galatians 4:7

⁷ Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Moreover, being a son (according to [Romans 8:17](#)) means suffering. The question is, what are sons expected to suffer?

- **DENYING the flesh**

1 Peter 4:1

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters...

- **DISCIPLINE (chastisement)**

Hebrews 12:7

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

- **DOING WELL (ill treatment)**

1 Peter 2:20

²⁰ For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

Lastly, we not only do we suffer *what* Christ suffered, we suffer *how* He suffered!

1 Peter 4:13

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

God wants us to suffer with “joy.” That means we must give up our complaints and murmuring!