

# SON OF GOD (Part 3)

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## **Romans 8:19**

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

Notice, all of creation is not just waiting for the appearance of the Son of God, but creation is *also* waiting on the manifestation of the SONS of God!

Now, we should point out that being called *sons of God* in no way diminishes THE Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus will always be the *unique* Son of God. For example, He is the “Firstborn” Son of God. (If you know anything about Jewish culture, then you know that the firstborn occupied a superior status among his brothers!) Second, Jesus is the “begotten” Son of God. This means, He was “born” the Son of God. Everyone else becomes a son by *adoption*.

## **Ephesians 1:5**

***5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,***

The word “children” in this verse should be translated “sons.”

***Ephesians 1:5 American Standard Version***

***5 having foreordained us unto adoption as SONS through Jesus Christ***

Here ‘adoption’ means ***son placing or sonship***. Unlike Jesus, our sonship is not bestowed upon us at birth. We receive it through adoption.

Now, if you’re a serious Bible student, you might be wondering, “Why do we need to be ‘adopted’ if we’re already ‘born’ of God?” It’s because we’re not born *sons* (like Jesus). We’re born as *children*!

## **John 1:12**

***12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:***

The word “sons” should be translated “children”.

***John 1:12 American Standard Version***

***12 But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name:***

Everyone who believes on Christ becomes a *child* of God, not a *son* of God. Unfortunately, *children* do not hold the same status as *sons* according to the Bible.

### **Galatians 4:1–5**

***<sup>1</sup> Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; <sup>2</sup> But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. <sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: <sup>4</sup> But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, <sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.***

According to the Bible, children are similar to servants in that they must receive “permission” to do things. Sons, however, aren’t bound by such restrictions!

We all know what it’s like growing up as a child and having to get permission before being able to do anything. The same is true spiritually. Spiritual children can’t seem to operate effectively unless they’re given *permission*.

### **Matthew 10:1**

***<sup>1</sup> And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.***

Notice, Jesus commissioned His disciples (i.e. gave them permission) to heal the sick and cast out devils. They performed well whenever they operated according to permission. However, operating strictly by permission would eventually prove to be insufficient!

### **Mark 9:17–18**

***<sup>17</sup> And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; <sup>18</sup> And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.***

Why could they not cast this devil out as before?

### **Mark 9:28–29** *New American Standard Bible*

***<sup>28</sup> When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, “Why could we not drive it out?” <sup>29</sup> And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”***

The reason Jesus mentions prayer is because He wanted to transition them from a *permission*-based (servant-style) authority to an authority that was more *relationship*-based.

Some enemies/problems can't be defeated simply by 'showing them your badge.' You have to show them who you are!

**Acts 19:13, 15**

***<sup>13</sup> Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth; <sup>15</sup> And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?***

Notice, this evil spirit would not respond to what they *said*. He insisted on seeing some *identification*!

Moreover, our identity (whether we're sons or mere children) can be seen most clearly in prayer.

**Galatians 4:6**

***<sup>6</sup> And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.***

Notice, those who have received the 'adoption' (i.e. become sons) are those who approach God in prayer crying, "Abba, Father." The word "Abba" is a title used only by someone who's in an intimate/close relationship with God. Moreover, this relationship (sonship) comes with certain rights or *privileges*, and not just *permission*. There's a difference!

For example, in the computing world "permissions" are different from "privilege". *Permission* defines WHAT YOU CAN DO within the system (read/edit a file, open/close an application). *Privilege*, however, defines WHO YOU ARE in the system (user, admin). Moreover, someone who doesn't have *privilege* has to wait for someone to give them *permission*!

This is essentially the difference between *sons* and *children*. Children wait around for permission, while sons are given the privilege to act without permission!

**John 5:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.***

Notice, Jesus DID NOT say, “The Son can do whatever He wants.” Therefore, just because sons have the authority to act, this doesn’t mean that they act autonomously (independently) of the Father. Being a son is not about being a rival.

Secondly, Jesus DID NOT say, “I only do what I’m told.” Again, being a son means that you’re not waiting around around waiting for permission (i.e. to be told what to do). Instead, you’re trying to imitate what you “see” the Father doing!