



SONS & DAUGHTERS
What's Your Mindset?
(Orphan or Slave?)
Week 1

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Daniel Garcia and Emmaus Church San Bernadino.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

Our experiences with our parents and other authority figures play a part in shaping our

views of God, so many of us spend the rest of our lives replacing distortions of God with a more accurate view of what He is like. We do this by looking at how He has revealed Himself to us in the Bible.

John 14:18

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Some of us think like orphans:

- **Feel like you're alone rather than feeling like the Lord is always at your side.**
- **You worry that you will not be taken care of rather than trusting that God will provide all your needs.**
- **You feel like you're as loved as your behavior is good rather than feeling like God's love is unchanging toward you.**
- **You feel like you have to fix things rather than trusting in God's sovereign plan for your life.**
- **Orphans don't trust authority, whereas children trust the authority of their parents.**

The question is — how do we overcome that mindset?

Big Idea: To live as a Christian you have to know that you are beloved by God, adopted by the King of all Creation as His son or daughter.

You have to know in the depths of your soul what it means to be a child of God. Today

we're going to look at 3 truths of being God's sons and daughters.

Hosea 11:1-4

11 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
2 The more they were called,
the more they went away;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and burning offerings to idols.

**3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up by their arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.**

**4 I led them with cords of kindness,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one who eases the
yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.**

**1. We are no longer slaves, but
sons and daughters.**

Galatians 1:3-5

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

You were delivered from many things through the redemption found in Christ. One of the things you were delivered from that Paul covers in the book of Galatians is that you

were transferred from being an orphan, lost and without hope in the world, to being a child of God with all the full rights of inheritance.

It's just like being adopted by a natural family. An orphan has no legal rights to the things I own. But when I adopt that child, that child has legal standing to receive everything I want to give him or her, because they are no longer an orphan but a son or a daughter.

“Why do we enter the world as such helpless, inadequate persons, and then slowly grow up

physically, mentally, and emotionally into self-sufficient adults? Have you ever wondered why God didn't come up with some sort of reproduction system that would produce a physically completed person such as His original creation of Adam and Eve?"

"I believe God wanted us to come into this world totally dependent and helpless, because He intends the family unit to be a place where His love is demonstrated to both parent and child. As parents we begin to really understand God's heart towards us

as His children. And as children, it is God's will for us to see His love revealed through parental tenderness, mercy, and discipline.” (John Dawson)

Is that how you live? Or do you still have the mindset of an orphan?

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under

the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

What happens when we forget who we are? We forget that we're sons and daughters and acts like orphans. And what does that do to us.

Galatians 4:15

¹⁵ What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.

When the Galatians moved away from the gospel, they lost their joy. They forgot who they were in Christ. When they forgot they were sons and daughters adopted by God, they acted like slaves. They lost their joy, their blessedness.

2. When you forget that you're a child of God you lose your joy.

Galatians 4:7

⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

What does it mean to be an heir?

“Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father. In adoption, God takes us into His family and fellowship, and establishes us as His children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the father is greater.” (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, pages 187-88)

He’s really saying in one sense that forgiveness is not the greatest thing about

redemption, but adoption is. You're not just forgiven because God was angry with you. You're forgiven because God wanted to adopt you. God wanted you as His child.

- **Adoption Picnics**

To be an heir means that there is a promised inheritance for the child. But are all our promises as Christians only promises of the great-by-and-by, of the future? Absolutely not. Are there no promises that we can claim now? Absolutely yes.

3. Children live by the promises of their Father.

I'm not speaking here of developing an entitlement attitude. Children with entitlement attitudes aren't pleasant children to be around, are they?

Children who live by the promises of their Father live in humble reliance upon Him. It's

humble because they know they are being blessed with everything they do not deserve.

Think of the story of an orphan like *Oliver Twist*. He lived like an orphan, on the streets with other homeless orphans, but he was actually the child of very wealthy people. But he didn't know it. He didn't know who he was and an enemy kept it from him. When he discovered his true family, he was thankful because he knew what it was like to be an orphan.

That is the Christian. We know what it's like to be lost and without hope. We know what it's like to live under condemnation and guilt. We know what it's like to be lied to. We know what it's like to feel like no one cares. Now that we have the King as our Father, we should be thankful, and joyful.

James 4:6

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

- Jesus Calling/How much more God as our Father

Matthew 7:11

¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

What parent who sees their child discouraged doesn't want to encourage them?

What parent who sees their child lonely doesn't remind them that they'll always be there for them?

What parent who sees their child lonely doesn't want them to make friends?

What parent who sees their child struggling with reading or math doesn't want to show them how to do it?

What parent doesn't want what is best for their child?

If you being evil can do these things, then how much more God?

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- 2** The more they were called,
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