

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TERMS

CHILDREN OF GOD

1.) How did we become children of God?

Ephesians 1:4-5 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Galatians 3:26-27 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

2.) What are among the blessings of being members of God's family?

Psalms 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

Zechariah 2:8 "Whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye."

Matthew 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven...'"

Matthew 7:11 "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

1 Peter 1:3-4 In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

3.) What is the nature of God's family?

Galatians 3:26-28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Acts 10:34-35 "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

1 Corinthians 13:12 Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

4.) A person trying to minimize the differences between believers and unbelievers comments to you, "After all, we are all God's children." Is that person right or wrong? What nuance is added by Paul's words to the Athenians in Acts 17?

Acts 17:24-31 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. ²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ ²⁹ Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man’s design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

5.) Agree or disagree: the Christian church is identical with the children of God.

6.) Why is our relationship with God the Father to our obedience to him?

Matthew 12:50 “Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 5:48 “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

1 John 3:9-10 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

7.) Through no fault of his own a Christian man named James is going through a very difficult period in life with one problem after another—he gets laid off from work, loses his home, and is diagnosed with a chronic illness. Based on the following passage, how would you counsel him given the fact that he is a child of God?

Hebrews 12:5-11 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for adopting us into your family by the work of your Son, our brother, Jesus. Lead us to bear your name with joy and happily imitate Christ’s loving example in all we say and do. Amen.