



SONSHIP – CALLED A SON OF GOD

Dr Stephen Smith, 15 March '15

So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

Hebrews 1:4, 5

The first chapter of the Book of Hebrews emphasizes the extraordinary importance of God giving Jesus the name “Son.” No angel has been given this inheritance.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews lifts the Lord Jesus to His supreme position as God’s Son, and then reminds us we have been called to share in such Divine Glory.

¹ NOW WHAT I mean is that as long as the inheritor (heir) is a child and under age, he does not differ from a slave, although he is the master of all the estate; ²but he is under guardians and administrators or trustees until the date fixed by his father.

³ So we [Jewish Christians] also, when we were minors, were kept like slaves under [the rules of the Hebrew ritual and subject to] the elementary teachings of a system of external observations and regulations.

⁴ But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law, ⁵to purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us [and be recognized as God's sons].

⁶ And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father!

⁷ Therefore, you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son; and if a son, then [it follows that you are] an heir by the aid of God, through Christ.

Galatians 4:1-7 (Amplified)

WHAT IS A SON OF GOD?

We Are:

- Men and women who bring redemption and freedom to mankind through the power of God.
- A corporate body who disarm the powers of darkness and liberate mankind from the clutches of corruption to bring them to glory, light and freedom.
- A corporate body who act Christ-like on earth based on their knowledge of being created in the image of God.
- A corporate body who are led by the Spirit of God.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SONS OF GOD & CHILDREN OF GOD

The Lord Jesus used *huios* [Greek word meaning 'sons'] in a very significant way, as in **Matthew 5:9**, '**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God,**' and vv. 44, 45, 48 (Message), *I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best-the sun to warm and the rain to nourish-to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty.*

In a word, what I'm saying is, grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

¹⁵ *For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!*

¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God.*

¹⁷ *And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.*

¹⁸ *[But what of that?] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time (this present life) are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us!*

¹⁹ *For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].*

²⁰ *For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him who so subjected it-[yet] with the hope*

²¹ *That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children.*

Romans 8:14-21

Their conduct gives evidence of the dignity of their relationship and their likeness to His character.

³ *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained; ⁴ what is man that you think of him? The son of man that you care for him?*

⁵ *For you have made him a little lower than God, {Hebrew: Elohim} and crowned him with glory and honour.*

⁶ *You make him ruler over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet.*

Psalm 8: 4-5

SONS ARE "GODS"

³³ *The Jews said, "We're not stoning you for anything good you did, but for what you said-this blasphemy of calling yourself God."*

³⁴ *Jesus said, "I'm only quoting your inspired Scriptures, where God said, 'I tell you-you are gods.'"*

³⁵ *If God called your ancestors 'gods'-and Scripture doesn't lie- ³⁶ why do you yell, 'Blasphemer! Blasphemer!' at the unique One the Father consecrated and sent into the world, just because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?*

³⁷ *If I don't do the things my Father does, well and good; don't believe me.*

³⁸ *But if I am doing them, put aside for a moment what you hear me say about myself and just take the evidence of the actions that are right before your eyes. Then perhaps things will come together for you, and you'll see that not only are we doing the same thing, we are the same-Father and Son. He is in me; I am in him."*

John 10: 33-38

I said, You are gods [since you judge on My behalf, as My representatives]; indeed, all of you are children of the Most High.

Psalm 82: 6 (Amplified)

GOD STANDS in the assembly [of the representatives]... (v6), I said, you are gods [since you judge on My behalf, as My representatives].

Psalm 82: 1

So men are called gods [by the Law], men to whom God's message came-and the Scripture cannot be set aside or cancelled or broken or annulled-

[If that is true] do you say of the One Whom the Father consecrated and dedicated and set apart for Himself and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God?

John 10: 35-36 (Amplified)

Jesus understood the equality and sameness of man with God, that we are a little lower than God - Elohim. Jesus also understood and knew who He was and where He came from.

WE ARE NOT GOD, BUT SONS OF GOD!

If I don't do the things my Father does, well and good; don't believe me.

But if I am doing them, put aside for a moment what you hear me say about myself and just take the evidence of the actions that are right before your eyes. Then perhaps things will come together for you, and you'll see that not only are we doing the same thing, we are the same-Father and Son. He is in me; I am in him."

John 10: 37-38 (Message)

The truth is God is looking for saints who gain the victory over the enemies of God. He is going to employ them as rulers and judges of the works of His hands.

No **Christian** believer who is not pursuing the life of victory in Jesus has any hope of being an overcomer and conqueror, or of inheriting the nations with Christ. The promises are to the overcomers, not to those who take the "four steps of salvation" and after that live as do the majority of Christian believers.

Let us not be among those who neglect our great inheritance as sons of God. Let us lay aside all else in order to gain Christ. If we do this, God will regard Himself as our God and us as His sons.