

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
BELIEVERS ARE THE SONS OF GOD
1 JOHN 3:1-2

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Introduction

- I. **WE NEED TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND JUST WHO WE WERE BEFORE CHRIST CAME INTO OUR LIVES!**
(“us” 3:1)

In order to properly understand the MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HATH BESTOWED UPON US, we MUST properly understand WHO WE WERE BEFORE CHRIST!

Let’s go back to OUR beginning shall we! We ALL pretty much had the same beginning in this world even though the circumstances surrounding our beginning may have differed greatly one from another!

- A. **We were ALL BORN INTO THIS WORLD!**
- B. **When We Were Born Into This World, We Were ALL Born “In Adam!” (And make no mistake about it that IS THE PROBLEM!)**
Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- C. **When We Were Born Into This World With Physical Life, We Had No Spiritual Life!(Romans 5:12; Cf. Ephesians 2:1) (i.e. Ephesians 2:1– “...dead in trespasses and sins!)**
- D. **Being Dead In Trespasses And Sins Led To Our Walking In The Ways Of the World, the Flesh, And the Devil!**
Ephesians 2:2-3 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Being in such a way, we lacked understanding about God, we lacked the ability to seek after God rightly, we lacked any righteousness at all so we lacked the ability to walk in God’s way and to do what was right!

Romans 3:10-12 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

So we had **WRONG PRIORITIES** in our lives! We were about the things that the world, our flesh, and the devil are about! We were literally seeking our own!

- Seeking our own **Popularity** or **Prestige!**
- Seeking our own **Power!**
- Seeking our own **Promotion!**
- Seeking our own **Prosperity** and **Possessions!**
- Seeking our own **Pleasure!**
- Seeking our own **Peace!**

- E. **Being Dead In Trespasses And Sins Led To Our Manifesting The Works Of The Flesh In Our Lives!**
Galatians 5:19-21 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 3:13-18 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
BELIEVERS ARE THE SONS OF GOD
1 JOHN 3:1-2

THAT'S WHO WE WERE! (OR ARE IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TRULY BORN AGAIN!)

II. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHO BESTOWED ON US THIS PRIVILEGE OF BEING CALLED A SON OF GOD!

(“...the Father...” vs 1) It is speaking of the Heavenly Father here!

A. The Heavenly Father Is The Father Of The Lord Jesus Christ!

1. This Is An Eternal Relationship Between The Heavenly Father And The Lord Jesus Christ!

John 1:1-3 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

2. This Is A Relationship That Was Manifested To Us In The Incarnation!

Luke 1:31-32 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
BELIEVERS ARE THE SONS OF GOD
1 JOHN 3:1-2

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

The Heavenly Father Is The Father Of The Lord Jesus Christ!

B. The Heavenly Father Is The Father Of All Who Receive Jesus By Faith.

John 1:12-13 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: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her...but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
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1 JOHN 3:1-2

*The Heavenly Father Is The Father Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
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By Faith.*

C. Our Fellowship As Believers Is With Each Other And With Both The Heavenly Father And His Son!

*1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.***

Fellowship is having something in common with and partnering together with another. (*Fellows in the same ship!*)

*1 Corinthians 8:6 But **to us** there is but one God, **the Father**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

D. We Worship The Heavenly Father!

*John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when **the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.***

*2 Corinthians 1:3 **Blessed be God, even the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

“Blessed” = “Adorable”

*Ephesians 1:3 **Blessed be the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

E. Our Heavenly Father Knows And Takes Care Of Our Needs As His Dear Children!

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
BELIEVERS ARE THE SONS OF GOD
1 JOHN 3:1-2

*Matthew 6:32 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) **for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.***

*Matthew 7:9-11 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 **If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?***

WE NEED TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND JUST WHO WE WERE BEFORE CHRIST CAME INTO OUR LIVES!

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHO BESTOWED ON US THIS PRIVILEGE OF BEING CALLED A SON OF GOD!

III. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS PRIVILEGE IS THAT IS BESTOWED ON US!

(Vs 1 – “...that we should be called the sons of God...”)

A. We Are Not Sons Of God According To The Flesh!

1. In His Person, Jesus Is The Image Of The Invisible God!

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

2. In His Position, Jesus Is Firstborn Of Every Creature! (Firstborn here indicates priority!)

Of every creature that was ever made and has ever lived, He is the first that was born of God.

He is the only one Who was ever begotten of God in the flesh or ever will be begotten of God in the flesh! (John 3:16)

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
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B. Nevertheless We Are Sons Of God According To His Adoption Of Us!

*John 1:12 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:*

*Romans 8:15 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.***

*Galatians 4:4-6 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.***

C. As Adopted Sons Of God We Are Heirs Of God And Joint Heirs With Christ Jesus!

*Romans 8:17 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.*

*Galatians 3:29 And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

Galatians 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

*Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, **we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

Conclusion

We who are Believers on the Lord Jesus Christ are the sons of God!
What effect is that having in your life? What effect should it have in your life?
(Vs 2-3)