

Doctrine of Sonship

Ephesians 1:5 In Love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

We have moved but just five verses in Ephesians 1. And look at all the marvelous things God has done to you and for you.

1. He has sent us apostles to give us the infallible divinely inspired Word of God. (verse 1).
2. Every believer in Jesus Christ is recognized as a ‘saint.’ That is, we are recognized by God as set apart for His glory. And while it is true that not many look like saints or live like saints, before God we are each one a saint. (verse 1).
3. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior is ‘put in Christ.’ This is your eternal position—positional truth forever. (verse 1).
4. We are each one given grace and peace by God our Father. Whether or not you are benefited by this grace and peace is up to you and your relationship with the Holy Spirit. But He has given to us grace and peace.
5. Every believer is given every spiritual blessing in Christ. (verse 3). Quit comparing yourself to others and take advantage of the advantages God has graciously given to you.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

6. Once you believe in Jesus Christ as your savior, God the Father ‘elects’ you or chooses you to be ‘in’ His Son. (verse 4) We are not chosen or elected to believe in Christ, but once we do believe in Jesus Christ, God elects us to be *in* Christ.
7. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will be presented to God the Father by Jesus Christ as holy and blameless regardless of how you may live your life as a believer. (verse 4).
8. In His divine love, He predestinated everyone who believes in Jesus as Savior. (verse 5). We are not predestined to believe in Jesus Christ. But once we make that decision to believe in Jesus Christ, God the Father ‘predestinates us.’
9. At the moment anyone believes in Jesus Christ as Savior he is adopted as an adult son through Jesus Christ. (verse 5).
10. And now the 10th blessing we have in just the first five verses of Ephesians chapter 1 is that we share the Sonship of Jesus Christ. (verse 5).

People, when you feel down and out, like the world is against you, please remember that God is with you and for you and has done all these wonderful blessings to you and you have them for all eternity. You are ‘rich’ in Christ.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

Doctrine of Sonship

I. Sonship and the Gospel

1. The Gospel (believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved) is the mechanism used by God to bring everyone who believes in Jesus Christ into a close relationship with Himself. Therefore, all believers secure for themselves this high status as sons, on the sole condition of faith in Jesus Christ. Gal. 3:26,
2. Sonship is the process that everyone who believes, enters when he believes in Christ.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, (Jesus Christ) to them He (God the Father) gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, (we receive Him by faith)

John 1:13 who were born, (second birth, born from above (John 3:3) born again (1 Peter 1:23)) not of blood (first birth, our physical birth,) nor of the will of the flesh (the flesh can do nothing acceptable to God) nor of the will of man, (no church or ecclesiastical body) but of God. (He does it all. All we add is simple faith. (Gal. 3:26))

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

II. The proof or seal of Sonship is by the giving of the Holy Spirit

1. The proof or seal of Sonship is seen and realized when God provides every new believer with His Spirit, the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, (adoption) God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit (the human spirit that we regain at point of faith in Jesus Christ.) that we are children of God

Galatians 3:5 (corrected translation) So then, does He who graciously supplies you with the *Holy Spirit* even working power in you, do it by the works of the Law, (by you doing works according to the Law) or by hearing with faith? (receiving what you hear by faith)

2. Therefore, both the graciously supplying every believer with the imputation of the Holy Spirit and the adoption into Sonship with His Son, His only begotten Son, occur simultaneously at the point when you believe in His Son as your Savior. Both are immediate blessings of believing in Christ. Galatians 3:2-5.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

3. Only members of the human race who have believed in Jesus can be adopted into Christ and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We become ‘sons of God’ by means of adoption.

III. Sonship and prayer

Last week we studied our prayer life and the Kindness of God. Today we continue to enrich our prayer life.

1. Because we are adopted by God into His Son, Jesus Christ we call God ‘our Father.’

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, (by adoption) God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

2. Only a born again believer, one who has personally believed in Jesus Christ as Savior, is by adoption in right relationship with God from the point he believes throughout all eternity.
3. No unbeliever can ever legitimately ever call God, ‘Father.’ But as believers, we are adopted and have the right to pray to God. Abba, my Father! So, what happens when an unbeliever prays: ‘Father’? If he could hear them, he would hear the most disappointing words from God recorded in

Matthew 25:12...I do not know you!

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

The penetrating question is not do you know God, but does God know you? And He knows you if you have believed in His Son and been adopted in His Son. Then God knows you as one of His own.

4. God is not the Father of all mankind, except through creation. But personally, He is the Father only of those who believe in His Son. So many people are so wrong in their heretical view of the Love of God. People, please learn about love: God's love, Spiritual love, love as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Divine love does not violate the perfect Righteousness of God! God does not pervert His Righteousness to satisfy love.
5. Every time you pray, 'Heavenly Father...' you should bear in mind that you have this privilege of addressing Him as Father because you have been adopted into His Son and share the Sonship of Jesus Christ.

IV. Our adoption into the Sonship of Jesus Christ is founded on the divine imputations of perfect Righteousness and eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

I hope you remember that this is the positive side of the Gospel. The negative side is that He bore the judgment for all sins and you will not be judged for those sins, but this does not result in salvation. There must be the positive part of the Gospel which is

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

the imputation of His perfect righteousness to everyone who believes in Him.

1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

At the point of personal faith in Jesus Christ, God does some 34 things for every believer.

- V. Heirship is based on sonship. One of the most precious blessings we are given by God is heirship with Christ.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

These two verses could set off about a year of study.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

1. What is the difference between being an adult son (*uios*) versus being children (*teknon*)?
2. How does the Holy Spirit testify to our human spirit?
3. What is the difference between being an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ?
4. How does suffering in this life make us joint-heirs of Christ?
5. If we suffer in this life how and when will we be glorified with Him?

Our study centers on the Biblical fact that by being adopted as adult sons, we become heirs. Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Being an heir of God is dependent on nothing but faith in His Son as our Savior. But being joint heirs with Christ depends on suffering for Christ in this life. The next paragraph in Romans chapter 8 deals with suffering for Christ. Most Christians have the wrong view about suffering. Oh, you are suffering, what did you do wrong? What sin have you committed? But people, suffering for Christ is one of the greatest blessings we have on this earth. This is one reason why I like to read a short story of Christians who are suffering for Christ out of Voice of Martyrs.

- VI. Sonship and being Heirs of God. Sonship represents the actual begetting on the part of the parent resulting in legitimate sonship and legitimate parenthood. This is why we are said to be *born from above* (John 3:3) and *born again* (1 Peter 1:23). We are said to be *born of the Spirit* (John 3:5). This birth makes us legitimate sons of God. Therefore, God is one parent under the sonship

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

according to the Word of God. He is the greatest parent we could ever have. Everything we inherit from Him is based on His perfect being. For example, He is eternal life; and we inherit everlasting life from Him. He is perfect righteousness; we inherit His perfect Righteousness the moment we believe in Jesus Christ. Here is one you never want to forget: He treats us as sons, whom He loves providing either discipline or blessings.

VII. Heirship and how we are to live while on earth. Being born into certain families can be thought of as ‘cursing and blessing.’ This is not that well known in America. Queen Elizabeth of England has not been free to do whatever she pleases, dress however she pleases because she was born into royalty. Born into certain families carries strict procedures on almost every area of life. And that my dear friends is ever so true in regard to every person born into the family of God and became Sons by adoption.

1 Peter 2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure (without deceit, without error) milk of the word, so that by it (by His Word) you may grow in respect to salvation, (not to earn salvation but we should grow in respect to our salvation. We should grow spiritually by taking in the Word of God. Milk as babies; bread as adults).

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

Because we are Sons in Christ, we should start off desiring the simple truths of the Word of God. But like natural babies, we should grow and require ‘solid food’ or solid teaching of the Word of God of advanced understanding.

1 Corinthians 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

1 Corinthians 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; He gave them elementary teaching not advanced teaching by which they could grow.

for you were not yet able to receive it. Spiritually, they were not able to grasp advanced teaching. Many churches get milk Sunday after Sunday, never really advancing in the truth of the Word of God.

Indeed, even now you are not yet able, They do not live by faith in the Holy Spirit. They do not even desire milk or elementary teaching. One of the most discouraging things that is to be said of a Christian, who shares sonship with Jesus Christ is that they are not ready for advanced teaching.

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

Hebrews 5:13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. (Righteousness in the Word of God)

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. (Righteousness in life.)

Hebrews chapter 6 continues this discussion on teaching milk or solid food. Only now, the problem is that these believers who were once taking in and learning advanced teaching have given it up and moved into a life of unrighteousness.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, (Why incarnation? Why born of a virgin? Why perfect, sinless life? Why His deaths on the cross? Why His burial? Why His resurrection? And why His Ascension and Session at the right hand of God?) **let us press on to maturity, (all the teaching on the Holy Spirit, prophecy, Old Testament etc.) **not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**, (God the Holy Spirit)**

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

Hebrews 6:2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, (legalism) and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. (Judgement Seat of Christ)

Hebrews 6:3 And this we will do, if God permits.

Hebrews 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, (they once learned to walk by faith in the Holy Spirit)

Hebrews 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Hebrews 6:6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, (hardness of their hearts) since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

They still possess eternal life as heirs and Sonship but they no longer glorify Jesus Christ.

Oh, people, please be constantly on alert. Protect who you are in Christ, and continue to grow in the Word of God.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

VIII. Sonship of Jesus the Christ.

1. The humanity of Jesus Christ is declared to be the Son of God. John 3:16; Matthew 16:16.
2. He declared Himself to be the Son Man (Matthew. 8:20; 12:8 and Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of man some 80 times). The Son of Man is the representative of the entire human race. And people, this means He represents all religious people: Muslims, Hindus, Mormons and any and all religious groups, this is why they will never be judged for their sins. Christ bore that judgment on the cross in His Spiritual death.
3. Son of Abraham as the promised descendant who would bless the whole world. Matthew 1:1.
4. Son of David—Davidic covenant of the promised heir who would sit forever on the future throne of David. Matthew 21:9.
5. Son of Mary—His incarnation. Matthew 1:25.

IX. The nation of Israel is called by God Himself as God's sons, His first born.

Exodus 4:22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, "Israel is My son, My firstborn.

2 Samuel 7:14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity,

**Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6**

I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

Ephesians 1:5 in love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

We would never complete a study of God, His existence, His essence, His character, His names, His acts, His love, His Righteousness, etc. But, what about the will of God?

The will of God is all through the book of Ephesians.

1:1 Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God

1:5 He predestinated us to adoption as sons...according to the kind intention of His will

1:9 He is making known to us the mystery of His will

1:11 who works all things after the counsel of His will

and one that is very important to our living

5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understanding what the will of the Lord is

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

Here we learn something very important about the will of God. *His will may or may not be realized when dependent upon mankind.* When His will does not depend on the freewill of man, it will be done exactly according to His Will, His desire, His plan. But, when any of these, His Will, His desire, His plan depends on the volition of man, it may or may not be done.

**6:6...be obedient...not by way of eyeservice,
as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ,
doing the will of God from the heart.**

What is interesting is that in every one of these occurrences of the will of God, is the fact that each one is the same Greek word for will: *thelema*. This word is used almost exclusively of God, except note in

**Eph. 2:3 (where it is used of the desire of man)
Among them we too all formerly lived in the
lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the
flesh and of the mind, and were by nature
children of wrath, even as the rest.**

So, throughout Scripture, we have a battle between the *will of God* versus *the will of man*. The will of man is never in line with the will of God. They are in constant conflict. (Galatians chapter 5).

Three major points on the Will of God.

First: it has always been God's will, desire to save all His creation of mankind.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

1 Timothy 2:3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1 Timothy 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God made this possible for all mankind to be saved: John 3:16 and Ephesians 1:9, 11.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Second, Jesus is our example of setting our own desires, will, aside and come under the will of God.

Doctrine of Sonship
Ephesians 1:5-6

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. (His food = His very life.).

Third, doing the will of His Father was superior to doing His own will.

John 5:30 “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. He is our Savior and He is our example on how we ought to live –to do the will of God our Father.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

John 6:40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

Read and meditate on these words of our Savior-friend. And think about your own desire to do nothing but the Will of God His Father and your Father.