

Agape House of Worship

Midweek Service & Bible Study

Topic: Understanding Sonship

Part 1: OUR IDENTITY

Texts: John 3:16-17, Romans 8:12 -19, Luke 15:11-24

Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Facilitator: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

Introduction:

Who God, our heavenly Father is and who we are in Christ are the two most important beliefs that every Christian should possess. Our faith in Christ is a journey of a lifelong learning, we are constantly learning to know God better and understand His nature and the various dimensions that God possess. Any believer who genuinely seeks to know God better and understand His person will indeed live victoriously as a son and daughter led by the Spirit of God. When we know God as loving Father, our Identity is safe and secured.

The goal of this bible study series is to help you understand what sonship is as explained in the bible. We will study the purpose of sonship (identity), the process of sonship (maturity) and the privilege of sonship (authority).

1. The Nature of God - 1 John 4:7-12, Luke 15:11-24

The nature of God is love. God loves us not because we are lovable, but because it is His nature to love. The love of God is not dependent on its object, the love of God is unconditional (Agape).

Jeremiah 31:3 "The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

John 3:16-17 ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 4:8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**"

1 John 4:16 "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them"

A picture of the Father's Love: Jesus trying to give us a picture of God's love towards us, illustrated it in the parable of the lost son. **Luke 15:11-24**

Luke 15:20 "So he got up and went to his father." But while he was still a long way off, **his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him;** he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Question – Why does God loves you? How do you know He loves you?

2. Our Identity

Legal identity is defined as the basic characteristics of an individual's identity. e.g. name, sex, place and date of birth conferred through registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority following the occurrence of birth.

Question - What is your Identity based on?

God declared Jesus as His son:

Matthew 3:16-17 “ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (NKJV)

Other reference to Jesus as the son of God: Luke 1:35, Luke 4:41, Matthew 26:63, John 19:7, John 5:16-19

God adopted us as His sons:

Sonship in biblical terms simply means being a child of God. Our sonship gets conferred on us at the point of salvation. Our Identity is rooted in accepting the gift of God which is Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior. Jesus Christ is God’s ultimate expression of love to us. Jesus Christ is the expressed image of God, Jesus Christ is the gift of God to mankind. Colossians 2:9-10

John 1:12-13 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (NKJV)

Ephesians 1:5 “He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will”

Galatians 4:4-7 “4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, and Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”

Romans 8:14-16 “*for* those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

Other Scriptures on our Identity in Christ: Genesis 1:27, John 1:12, Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 2:9,

Discussion – Stolen Identity.

How to be secured in your Identity

1. Believe the Father loves you. John 3:16, John 16:27
2. Meditate on God’s law. Psalm 1:1-3
3. Resist the temptations of the enemy. James 4:7
4. Grow in Faith. Hebrews 11:6, Colossians 2:7
5. Obey God. 1 John 2:5-6, 1 John 5:3, John 5:19

In conclusion pray that you will understand the love of God because this is what gives you assurance of who you are, it is what establishes you in faith, it is what energizes your life, and it is what enables you to manifest the attributes of your heavenly father here on earth.

Ephesians 3:16-19

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”