

Agape House of Worship

Midweek Service & Bible Study

Topic: Understanding Sonship
Part 2: The Process & Privilege
Text: Romans 8:12 -19

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Facilitator: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

Introduction: In part one of this study, we took a look at purpose of sonship as taught by Apostle Paul in his letters to the Romans and Galatians. Sonship is the process through which God gave us a new identity when He adopted us as his sons and daughters and made us heir of salvation. We established that the source of our identity is in Christ Jesus, which happens when we accept Him as our lord and savior. As followers of Christ our identity is not based on our achievements, our possessions, our challenges or trauma, rather it is based on God's love to us expressed through the gift of Jesus Christ, John 1:12-13, Ephesians 1:5. In today's study we will look into two other dimensions of sonship, the process it requires and the privileges or benefits it brings into our life

Romans 8:12-19

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. 14 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. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. (NIV)

Question – What comes to your mind when you hear the word maturity?

⇒ **The Process of Sonship (Maturity) Galatians 4:1-7, Romans 8:12-16, Galatians 5:13-18**

Even though we have been adopted as a child of God through Christ, the story does not end there, God expects us to mature just like natural parents' desire to see their child grow into a responsible adult that they can assign responsibility to and even give an inheritance. In order to access the full inheritance that God has for us, we need to surrender ourselves to maturing into sons and daughter of God. The Holy Spirit is our tutor, He is the agent that leads us into maturity.

Galatians 4:1 "Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had." **NLT**

Signs of Maturity - Romans 8:12 - 16

1. Matured sons of God have responsibilities, Romans 8:12-13
2. Matured sons of God are led by the Spirit of God, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:24-26

3. Matured sons of God have a sonship mindset Romans 8: 15, Philippians 2:3-8
4. Matured sons of God are in tuned with and affirmed by the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:16
5. Matured sons of God are ready to share in Christ’s suffering. Romans 8:17

⇒ **The Privilege of Sonship: Romans 8:17-19, Ephesians 1:16-23**

1. Intimacy with God, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6-7
2. Authority, power over sin, principalities and darkness, Romans 8:15a, Galatians 5:16-18, Luke 10:19
3. Inheritance, Romans 8:17, Ephesians 1:10-11, Hebrews 9:15, Colossians 3:24
4. Identification (through suffering and persecution), Romans 8:18, Matthew 5:11-12, 1 Peter 4:13
5. Influence, you live a life of peace, blessing and impact. Romans 8:19, Ephesians 1:3, Romans 8:6

Question – What are some other privileges we have access to as co-heirs with Jesus Christ?

THE MIND OF A SON VERSUS THE MIND OF AN ORPHAN (SLAVE)

	THE HEART OF AN ORPHAN	PERCEPTION	THE HEART OF SONSHIP
1.	See God as Master	IMAGE OF GOD	See God as a Loving Father
2.	Independent/Self-reliant	DEPENDENCY	Interdependent/Acknowledges Need
3.	Self-rejection from comparing yourself to others	SELF IMAGE	Positive and affirmed because you know you have such value to God
4.	A need for personal achievement as you seek to impress God and others, or no motivation to serve at all	MOTIVE OF SERVICE	Service is motivated by a deep gratitude for being unconditionally loved and accepted by God
5.	“Must” be holy to have God’s favor, thus increasing a sense of shame and guilt	MOTIVE FOR PURITY	Want to be holy, do not want anything to hinder intimate relationship with God
6.	See authority as a source of pain; distrustful toward them and lack a heart attitude of submission	VIEW OF AUTHORITY	Respectful, honoring; you see them as ministers of God for good in your life
7.	Difficulty receiving admonition; you must be right, so you easily get your feelings hurt and close your spirit to discipline	VIEW OF ADMONITION	See the receiving of admonition as a blessing and need in your life so that your faults and weakness are exposed and put to death
8.	Seek comfort in counterfeit affections: addictions, compulsions, escapism, busyness, hyper-religious activity	SOURCE OF COMFORT	Seek times of quietness and solitude to rest in the Father’s presence and love.
9.	Competition, rivalry and jealousy toward others’ success and position	PEER RELATIONSHIPS	Humility and unity as you value others and are able to rejoice in their blessings and success
10.	Conditional & Distant	SENSE OF GOD’S PRESENCE	Close & Intimate

Source: Shiloh Place Ministries (www.shilohplace.org)