
SONS OF GOD

Last week, we saw how man became children of the devil and God, being God could have decided at that time to do away with the entire creation and start all over again. We all say that Satan is a legalist, but where did he get his legalism from? He copied God of course! The fact is, Satan is a copy-cat because he cannot create anything but he instead imitates, in a corrupted form, what God does and is. So God, as the Legalist, in that He was the Just Judge, had to satisfy the demands of justice when Adam fell. Therefore, He had to:

- a) Ensure that man paid the penalty for his treason (True Justice for sin requires a penalty to be paid).
- b) Be just towards Satan as well (after all, God is a just God). There could be no partiality towards man.
- c) God must show Himself to be righteous. He would give man (and ONLY man) a way out, in order to restore him to his original status – just as if he never sinned. However, if man chose not to go that way, then man would have to suffer the consequences i.e. the same fate that Satan would suffer. God's righteousness would not extend to Satan so his penalty was irrevocable.

Just a little reminder of your composition - you are first a spirit, created in God's image. Secondly, you have a soul - which is made up of the mind, the will, and the emotions and thirdly, you live in a body that is geared, like a spacesuit is geared, to keep you alive on this floating ball called the earth. Through that body, or earth suit, you make connection with your environment and other people via the five senses of taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing. These five senses give us all the natural information that we store.

Now, here was man, created an eternal spirit, in the image of God, now fallen in nature. God loved man, and determined that He would restore mankind one day to his original status. God could not let man live forever in that fallen state, which is what would have taken place had he eaten of the tree of life (after he sinned), so God expelled man from the Garden (Genesis 3:24). However, He did make man a promise that a Redeemer would come (Genesis 3:15). From that point on Satan, who could not have a revelation of God's promise, frantically tried to eradicate the human race, or any people whom he thought would be the source of the promised "Seed of the woman". Whatever made him think he could outsmart God?

So, as Paul said in **Galatians 4:3-7 (CEV)**

"That is how it was with us. We were like children ruled by the powers of this world. But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children. Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father. You are no longer slaves. You are God's children, and you will be given what he has promised."

Every human being is born as a baby and must go through a growth process to become an adult. The same thing occurs in the human spirit. When we are born again, we instantly become righteous in God's eyes. In other words, every sin we ever committed was erased together with the curse that Adam brought upon us in the Garden of Eden. We are received into God's family and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (KJV) says

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

However, our minds are still subject to the old habits, therefore, the Bible tells us how we can grow up to be the adult sons that God desires.

Psalm 1 (AMP)

1BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.

2But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

3And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].

4Not so the wicked [those disobedient and living without God are not so]. But they are like the chaff [worthless, dead, without substance] which the wind drives away.

5Therefore the wicked [those disobedient and living without God] shall not stand [justified] in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous [those who are upright and in right standing with God].

6For the Lord knows and is fully acquainted with the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly [those living outside God's will] shall perish (end in ruin and come to nought).

There is a growth process involved whereby we go from baby Christians to become fully Christ-like in every way. Paul referred to this process as “growing from milk to meat”. Like a young tree planted, the baby Christian is nurtured by the water of the Word of God, pouring into his/her spirit. This process takes discipline and strong commitment. This process takes the five established Christian habits –

- study/read the word,
- meditate on it,
- give the word of God first place in all situations,
- pray in all manner of prayer and
- worship.

House of Faith

It is fueled by our love for Christ, the Word of God, our faith, and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. True Christianity requires that we grow from babies into sons (mature); God never intends for us to remain babies because babies cannot be effective in [experiential] knowledge of God with all wisdom and understanding, as we are called to do in Ephesians 1:17 and 2 Peter 3:18.