

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

TOPIC: I AM A CHILD OF GOD

TEXT: LUKE 15:11-32; ROMANS 8:17-19; GALATIANS 4:6-7 NLT.

INTRODUCTION

The issue of who we are in Christ is really a point of our identity in Him. Our journey on this subject will reveal the truth about who God created us to be and how He wants us to live!

Your view of a Father is key—If your human father was distant or not relational, you may not feel comfortable thinking of God as your father. This is part of the reason why some of us struggle in life to accept God's love. How do you understand being a child of a king that God loves us?

We are loved by God, *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* **Romans 5:8.** As this truth permeates our beings, we begin to walk in the glorious confidence of knowing that God is our loving Father who only wants what's best for us.

When we fail to fully perceive and apply this truth, we are guilty of failing to acknowledge our Father's complete involvement in every detail of our lives and destinies.

The “Orphan” Vs “Child” of God.

The Orphan

I will not leave you as orphans (John 14:18)

Feels alone, Lacks a vital daily intimacy with God. Is full of self-concern

Anxious over felt needs: relationships, money, health. "I'm all alone and nobody cares. I'm not a happy camper."

Lives on a succeed/fail basis. Needs to "look good" and "be right." Is performance-oriented. Feels condemned, guilty, and unworthy before God and others.

Has little faith, lots of fear in himself/herself: "I've got to fix it."

The Child of God

But he has given us the Spirit of sonship and by him we cry, "Abba, Father!" (Romans 8:15)

Has a growing assurance that "God is really my loving father

Has a growing assurance that "God is really my loving heavenly Father."

Learning to live in daily, conscious, partnership with God. Is not fearful.

Feels loved, forgiven, and totally accepted because Christ's merit really clothes him.

Has a daily working trust in God's sovereign plan for his/her life as loving. Wise, and best. Believes God is good.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11–32 (MSG)

The father longingly watched for his son's return; then, when he saw him approaching, he came running to the prodigal son kissing him over and over, even before the son apologized. The dancing father was elated in his son's return.

Jesus reply to the Pharisees' distorted views about God:

Jesus confronted them with a picture of a God who danced in sheer joy at the sight of a failure coming home.

- a. He confronted them with a God who turned out to be a divine sprinter, who runs after sinners, who throws parties for those who have not and cannot qualify for his favour.
- b. Instead of a God quick to judge—a hanging' judge, who has one hand on the rope of the trap door and searches for an excuse to jerk it—

Jesus' version of God is of an amazing Father

Who steadfastly, persistently and unswervingly remains exactly what he is, a Father, even and especially when his sons become rebellious, twisted and wayward.

- a. There is no list-keeping (of wrong) in this Father's heart.
- b. There are no Pharisaic religious steps to forgiveness.
- c. There is no mention at all of forgiveness here and especially of earning it in any way, because forgiveness is already done. It is, in Jesus' word, "**finished.**"
- d. This is about a sinner coming to his senses and encountering the truth of who he is because of who God is.
- e. This is about a son encountering the truth that he has a home that he has a father that he has an inheritance that he cannot squander.
- f. This is about coming to know God, coming to know and believe the good news of God the Father's immutable heart...

Son, this is not about your opinion of yourself. This is not about your worthiness.

- a. This is not about winning points with me.
- b. This is not about what you do or fail to do.
- c. This is about the fact that I am your father and therefore you are my son.
- d. This is about you coming to know who I really am and therefore who you are—you belong to me.
- e. This is about you coming to know as you are known.
- f. This is about you seeing the real riches of your inheritance in me and being filled with a great hallelujah!
- g. This is about you coming to bask in my relationship with you. *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8***

Conclusion

Jesus has done everything for us. When Christ came into the world he said, "*I have come that you may have life, life more abundant, and life to the absolute full.*" So when we come to Christ, we are coming face-to-face with God; we're entering into the family of God as a child of God, a joint-heir (**John 1:12**).

Some of us live like we are orphans even though we have a Father who is a king! Do you feel like an orphan or a child of God?

Confession

I am a new creature, born of God, into God's family. I am always abounding, because I have all sufficiency in all things, and abound unto every good work. I am a person who lets the peace of God rule in my heart and mind. Therefore, I am carefree about anything.