Scripture Reading: Romans 8:14-26

Singing: 242:1-4 - 111:1-4 – 52:1-4 – 292:1, 3, 5

**Sonship of Christ and believer**

I. Differences II. Similarities III. Evidences

I. The Sonship of Christ and believers: *the differences bring out His glory*

A. Both Jesus & believers are *child/children of God*

 1. His Name **Son of God**: *reveals His intimate relationship with Father*

 a. repeatedly Jesus claimed that He is *only begotten Son of God*

 • Mark 2:7-11; John 5:18; 10:33; Matt. 22:42ff; 26:63

 b. others testified that He was *more than mere human*

 c. Jesus never rebuked *any of His followers* for confessing Him so

 d. He verified His claim *with sign and miracles*

 2. Each regenerated sinner is also *a son/daughter of God*

 a. 2 Cor. 6:18 and Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:1

B. Yet there are important differences between *Son and children of God*

 1. Jesus Christ is the *only begotten Son of God* (John 3:16; Rom. 8:32)

 a. the Person of Jesus Christ is *surrounded with mystery*

b. He is *begotten*

c. He is the ***eternal and natural*** *Son of God*

 • John 1:1-3; Micah 5:2; John 8:58; Col. 1:15

 2. Believers are children of God *by adoption in grace for X’s sake*

 a. chosen from eternity to *be adopted in grace in time* (Eph. 1:4-5)

 b. Paul used the *analogy of Roman adoption instead of Western*

 3. What rich mine of truths is this to explore!

 a. 1 John 3:1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath*

 *bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God!*

II. The Sonship of Christ and believers: *the similarities is to our comfort*

A. What is there *similar* between Christ and believers?

 1. There is nothing *similar* in *nature– manner of existence*

 2. The similarities are in *status - rights - privileges* of being a child

 a. John 1:12; Rom 8:15-17

B. What are *privileges of both Son of God and children of God?*

 1. Share the *same Father* (Matt 5:48; John 20:17)

 2. Share the *same* ***love*** *of the Father*: John 17:23b - 1 John 3:1

 3. Share the *same* ***access*** *to Father*: Eph. 3:12-14; 1 John 2:1

 4. Share the *same heritage as Christ*:Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:11

 5. Share the same *home with Christ*: John 14:2-3

III. The Sonship of Christ and the believers: *the evidences is our assurance*

A. To prove that Jesus is the *Son of God* is done abundantly in Scripture

 1. Everything He said – did *supports His claim to be the Son of God*

 2. All this is enormously comforting & assuring: *if we rely on Jesus*

*Christ, we rely on Him Who has all power in heaven and earth!*

B To prove that one is *child of God by adoption* is possible

 1. how know?

a. not by inside view archives God’s eternal decree

 a. but by fruits of regeneration shall we know (1 Thess. 1:4)

 2. What we need to examine is *whether we are born again*?

 a. This ‘work of God’ Paul calls *to be made* ***fit*** *for the inheritance*

 • though each born again soul *will experience ongoing need for*

*Christian progress/growth, yet he/she is* ***complete in Christ***

 • becoming a ‘child of God’ is not *a lengthy process* but an

instantaneous things

 3. What are the marks which are to assure one about new birth?

 a. consider Matthew 5:3-12; 2 Peter 1:4

 • in the *new birth* we become *partakers of the Divine nature*

• as fruit the *divine purposes and delights* become ours

**Finally:** The Spirit’s evidences are *examinable* in yourself (2 Cor. 13:5)

A. If you miss these *internal marks,* be alarmed to seek Spirit’s work!

B. If you can’t deny these marks of the child live, *give the Father thanks!*