

## Character

### Sons & Daughters of God

*Character is the heart of God in us, and gifting is the hand of God through us*<sup>1</sup>

In the New Testament, it shows God as Father to those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Sonship to God is not universal, rather it is a supernatural gift which you can only receive through Jesus<sup>2</sup> (John 14:6)

- Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.<sup>3</sup>
- Romans 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.<sup>4</sup>

The Greek word for "sons of God" in both these Scriptures is *huios*. *Huios*, is a word that emphasizes the relationship of an offspring to its parent, especially the **character** or nature of that parent. Properly, a *son/ daughter* (by birth or adoption); (figuratively) anyone (male or female) sharing the *same nature* as their Father (Gal 3:28)<sup>5</sup>.

Paul uses the word *huios* to refer to the relationship of these children to their heavenly father and to imply that such children will be recognizable by their God like qualities and characteristics.

The Merriam dictionary defines character as one of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual<sup>6</sup>.

- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become sons of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Greek word for son in this verse is *teknon*. *Teknon* emphasizes the fact of birth or adoption to the parent rather than the character or nature of the parent<sup>7</sup>. Let's look at Romans 8:19 again. According to that Scripture it's not those who have simply been

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<sup>1</sup> Putty Putman, School of Kingdom Ministry Manual, 75

<sup>2</sup> J.I. Packer, Knowing God (Intervarsity Press, Illinois 1993) pg 201

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3&version=NASB>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8&version=NASB>

<sup>5</sup> <https://biblehub.com/greek/5207.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/character>

<sup>7</sup> <http://biblehub.net/searchgreek.php?q=teknon>

born again who will be revealed or manifested as the sons of God, but it's those who demonstrate the nature and characteristics of their Father.

- Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.<sup>8</sup>

Being led by God's Spirit (His nature) implies not only being obedient to the voice of the Spirit, but also developing the character of God. Being led by the Spirit is to hear and receive instruction from God and then fulfill the will of God in the spirit (character) of Jesus.<sup>9</sup> For example, a Christian who is being led by the Spirit, follows to a degree and obeys but may become arrogant, rude or have an attitude. You can operate in the gifts of the Spirit, and operate under an incredible anointing, yet not possess the character of Jesus!

The Father desires that we His children be conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29). This is vital for the Family of God to live in unity and fulfill the Father's desire as to how a family should function in their relationships. Being conformed to the image of Jesus is simply taking on His form and likeness.

Developing the character of Jesus is accomplished by developing the same fruits that were recognized in His life. Read Matthew 7:16-20, Jesus said in vs 20, So then, you will know them by their \_\_\_\_\_.

It is by **outward fruit** that **inward character** is recognized. Basically, Jesus is saying that you will recognize My disciples by their character.

- **Remember: fruit is cultivated through time and effort. Good fruit needs time to grow and mature!**
- Galatians 5:22 But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+8&version=NASB>

<sup>9</sup> Putty Putman, School of Kingdom Ministry Manual, 75

My Notes and thoughts

What does it mean to be a son of God (read Gal 3:26 again)

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In Your own words what is the difference between huios and teknon? \_\_\_\_\_

What is involved in developing a personal relationship with God?

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What does it mean to be led by the Spirit of God?

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Why is it so important for you to be conformed to the image of Jesus?

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What current mindsets or attitudes are holding you back from maturing?

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What is one nugget that really stood out to you?

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What is one new action that you are adding to your life, and what result do you want to see come from that action? \_\_\_\_\_