

## Kingdom Cultures: Family

### Being Family: Positioning ourselves as Sons and Daughters

There can be no genuine sense, experience or depth of family in the church without every person getting increasingly positioned as sons and daughters of Father God. Of course it is much easier to position ourselves as sons and daughters when we know this is how God lovingly regards us and as we understand the true nature of whom Father God really is. During the Kingdom Cultures series we'll be considering God's goodness much more.

Galatians 3:26-29 & 4:1-7

- Through coming to faith in Jesus we become sons and daughters of God. This is our status, this is who we are. This is our new identity as part of God's family. Inheritance and gifting can be dangerous without fully embracing our identity; just consider to prodigal son.
- We are sons and daughters of God before anything else. This takes precedence over our nationality, our role and status in life, whether we are male or female, young or old, whether rich or poor, lived a 'good, honest and fair life' or completely messed up at every turn. This is really important when it comes to roles in life and church. As a leader I am a son and brother before I am a leader. To just relate to me as a leader is a big mistake, as is me relating to the church family as a leader is a mistake. In Christ we are primarily a family of brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. If my identity is fundamentally in my role as a leader or anything other than as a son I am in trouble.
- As sons and daughters who belong to Christ we become plugged in and connected to a stream of inheritance which stretches way back to Abraham and the promises made to him by God. We have a legacy and inheritance which is extraordinary and includes favour and incredible spiritual and emotional security. Wholeness can be ours.
- The redemption enabled by Jesus' birth, death and resurrection releases to us the 'full rights as sons.' Just as the elder son in the story of the prodigal didn't understand or 'get' this, so often we don't and we remain stuck in the immaturity of childhood which makes us little different to being slaves. The elder son saw himself as a slave and in some way thought this built up the 'credit' needed to be a son and heir. Are you living as a son or daughter, or a slave? Sons and daughters are free to serve – this is not slavery where we are driven to try and prove our value and gain acceptance. It's a tragedy to work ourselves to try and earn or gain something already ours by inheritance.
- Our sonship is even more complete because of the mystery of the fact that God has put the Spirit of His Son, Jesus into our hearts. This Spirit in us can call out to Daddy God.
- The devil hates that we are sons and daughters, and seeks to rob this from us at every opportunity. It's much easier for him to do this when the windows and doors to our hearts and souls are left open when we don't allow Him to bring healing and restoration to our wounds. We basically choose to stay as immature children rather than in the joy of our inheritance as sons and daughters.

## **In summary**

Inheritance without identity is dangerous – prodigal son

If you're not a son or a daughter every Father will let you down.

Learn how to be sons and daughters who come home to an extravagant Dad

Being a son or daughter is about positioning the heart.

Sons and daughters position themselves to receive from Fathers and Mothers

We will only be like the elder brother in the story of the prodigal if we don't get this right in our hearts.

As leaders (or any other role) we are sons and daughters before we are leaders, we are like everyone else.

## **For further consideration**

1 John 3:1a

Romans 8:14-17

2 Corinthians 6:18

Ephesians 1:5

Hebrews 2:10-13

Hebrews 12:7-11

## **Questions**

1. To what extent has your own life experience as a son or daughter affected the way you relate to God as a Father? How are you dealing with any difficulties or personal insecurities that may be rooted in your own life experiences?
2. Have there been, or are there people who you have regarded as spiritual fathers or mothers in your life? What has their role been like?
3. What are the things that strike you about 'sonship' from reading the bible references above?
4. Are there any lies that you have believed about God that need dealing with in order to know and experience Him as He really is?

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