

SONS OF GOD

Romans 8:14-17 NKJV

"[14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." [16] The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..."

As human beings, our identity has been damaged by sin. However, in Jesus Christ, our old damaged identity is removed and replaced by a new one. We are no longer mere human beings struggling with sin, insecurity and lack of identity and purpose, etc; we are now God's children and members of His family. Through Christ Jesus, we have been given a new identity as sons of God.

CRITERIA FOR SONSHIP

Who are the sons of God and what qualifies them as sons? What are the criteria for sonship? How do women qualify as sons of God?

1. Born Anew

We have been born anew by the Word and Spirit into the family of God. The new birth experience gives us the right to become children of God. We ARE God's sons.

John 1:12-13 NKJV

"[12] Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – [13] children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

2. The Father

Out of His love for us, God the Father has made all who come to Him through Christ Jesus His children and sons.

1 John 3:1-2 NKJV

"[1] Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. [2] Beloved, now we are children of God" –

3. Jesus Christ affirms us

Jesus Christ affirmed us as sons of God when He called us His brethren. Through His death and resurrection, Christ reconciled us with the Father and presented us to Him as His brethren, making us sons of God and joint-heirs with Christ



Hebrews 2:10-13

"[10] For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. [11] For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, [12] saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." [13] And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

4. The Holy Spirit affirms, confirms and leads us**Romans 8:14-17 (AMP)**

"[14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father! The Spirit Himself testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God. And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory."

- a. Just as He affirmed Christ on the day of His baptism, The Holy Spirit is the seal of our adoption, and confirms, affirms and identifies us as sons of God in Christ. The Holy Spirit affirms that ALL, men, women and youth, have become sons of God and joint heirs with Christ. We ALL share the inheritance of the kingdom with Christ.
- b. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit. In the same way, the scripture says, *"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."*

- **Read:** Matthew 2:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:22

5. Not based on Gender

Our sonship is not based on gender, race, social status or position. All who come to faith and have put on Christ qualify as sons of God. We are sons of God, irrespective of our gender, race and social status.

Galatians 3:26-29

"[26] For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Galatians 3:4:4-7

"[4] But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" [7] Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."



Being a son of God, in this sense, is an identity, status, position or function, which we all gain when we come into Christ. It is a position of privilege where both men and women:

- Have Access to God and are loved by Him
- Have the Spirit of God in-dwelling us, leading and guiding us
- Are being transformed and made like Jesus
- Have an inheritance and are joint-heirs with Christ
- Have power and authority in Him
- Have the mandate to go into the world and establish Christ's kingdom.

JESUS: THE SON OF GOD

Jesus Christ the Son of God is the only person who can show us the characteristics of a son of God. Jesus had the attitude of a Son, which we must also develop. What can we learn from Him?

1. Jesus Christ carried the DNA of the Father – He is the express image of God. Jesus exhibited the qualities of God, and said, “If you have seen Me, you have seen My Father.

He was gentle, meek, kind, compassionate, longsuffering, patient, gracious, merciful and full of love – the fruit of the Spirit. He was righteous and lived above sin. He dealt with wrong, oppression and sin.

- Thus, we must also carry the DNA of Father God. When people see us, they must see God in us, in what we say and do. We can only do this if we abide in Christ and in His Word
- **Read: Matthew 5; Galatians 5; Colossians 1:15**

2. He had a relationship with His Father. This was not a casual relationship Jesus spent hours in prayer, talking to His Father. He lived in the presence of His Father, who was pleased with Him.

- We must also live in constant fellowship with the Father through prayer and worship

3. Jesus lived and moved only under His direction, leading and power. Thus it is only those who live under the direction, leading and power of the Holy Spirit who can truly consider themselves as sons of God. – *Luke 4:1 Romans 8:14*

- We must live Spirit-filled and Spirit-led lives, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.



4. Jesus had only one agenda – to do the will of the Father. He had no personal motive or desire. He did not seek His own except His Father's will. He lived a life of submission and surrender to the will of God. He chose to live under the supervision of His Father's will. – *John 5:19, 30-31; John 6:38-40; Hebrews 10:7; Phil 2:5*
 - A true son of God is, therefore, committed to the Father's will and will not only seek to know it, but also pursue and fulfil it.
5. Jesus took on the responsibility of the Father. He went about His Father's business, which was to build and establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. He proclaimed and demonstrated the kingdom. Jesus demonstrated the authority and power of the Father. He spoke and taught with authority, healed the sick, diseased and oppressed, cast out demons and did many miracles.
 - This must be the focus of the sons of God in every nation. The sons of God must come into this.
6. Jesus received the reward and promise of the nations and His inheritance – *Psalms 2:7-8*
 - So have we been made joint heirs with Him and will receive the nations – *Daniel 7*

WOMEN IN CHRIST – SONS OF GOD

As women in Christ, WE are SONS OF GOD! If the scriptures call us sons, then we ARE sons. Not only are we children of God, but we are sons of God, just as Jesus is the Son of God. (*Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-29*)

Women in Christ are sons of God. Therefore, we must change our cultural, biological and human identity and take on our spiritual identity in Christ as sons of God. We now ought to behave as sons. We ought to have the attitude of sons.

- a. As sons of God, we have been made joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. We share His inheritance of the nations.

Galatians 4:6-7

"[6] And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" [7] Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- b. Our role as sons is very specific – we are to advance the Kingdom and take and possess our families, communities, and the nations for Jesus Christ. It is only in our role as sons that we can possess a nation and its people for the Kingdom of God. This is because the nations have been promised to one person, Jesus Christ the Son of God. It is only in Him that we can achieve this.
 - This is why Romans 8:19 tells us the entire creation is groaning and waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.



- c. Our greatest need as sons of God is the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is the One who distinguishes us as sons. We need to be constantly filled with and full of the Holy Spirit. We must learn to live under the direction, leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must live Spirit-filled and Spirit-led lives. – *Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:14*
- d. As sons, we must grow in Christlikeness. It means we must take on the nature and characteristics of the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to transform us into the image of Christ. (Develop the Fruit of the Spirit) – *Galatians 5:22-25*
- e. As sons, we must grow in the knowledge and stature of Christ. We must develop our relationship with the Father through constant fellowship with Him in Spirit and the Word, through prayer and worship. We must come to greater knowledge and revelation of Christ

Ephesians 4:13 – *“Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”*

- f. As sons, we must rise up in our role as sons to possess the nations for Jesus Christ.

POSSESSING OUR INHERITANCE: THE NATIONS

Psalm 2:7-9

“[7] I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. [8] Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. [9] You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’”

We cannot impact and influence our nations unless we accept and put on our new identity and rise up as true sons of God. The promise of the nations is to the Son of God and it is only when we rise up and position ourselves in Him that we can take our nations.

Inheritance

In the Old Testament, only sons could inherit property, especially, land and property. Women normally did not inherit. Very few women ever inherited property in scripture. Yet this has changed in Christ, because through Him we have gained the position of sons.

God is our Father and we are joint-heirs with Jesus, our Brother! We have become sons; therefore, we can inherit the kingdom, together with Him. We share the possessions, blessings and benefits of our inheritance, the kingdom.

Responsibility

We must therefore also share the responsibility of taking territory and expanding the boundaries of the kingdom. As sons we have been given the authority and power. Therefore, we must also take the responsibility and work. We have a role and place in what God is doing. We also have a responsibility.

