

BLUEPRINT FOR MEN – OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Translation used: New Living Translation

Session #6 – Alive – The Response of a Son of God to the Love of the Father

This is the last session of the Identity in Christ series. I have been very encouraged by the study and participation of the group.

The text starts with this: *“Knowing the love and approval of God the Father creates in men a courage to do the will of God because they know that God is for them. It creates a confidence that “No matter what I see in my current circumstances, my Father is still at work”. Men who find their identity as a Son of God have the strengths to persevere in life because they know the whole story is still being unfolded. These men love and lead well because they being loved and led well by their Heavenly Father”*

In fact, he mentioned that we should keep our eyes in “heavenly treasures” and not in what the earth has to offer. Our identity is not in this world.

Notes from video:

Jesus is the perfect example of a man who lived out of the approval and love of the Father.

When we become a son of God, the image of God in us is being restored. In [Romans 8:29](#), we discover that this image is being restored as we are being conformed to the image of Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is the perfect image of God and we learn to be sons of God through the Son of God.

Jesus lived His identity as a Son by:

1. Being one with the Father ([John 17:21](#))
2. Seeking!!k from God rather than anything or anyone else ([Matthew 4:4](#))
3. Living with His affections and emotions being directed towards God ([Mark 12:30,31](#))
4. Living with the purpose of doing the will of the Father. ([John 4:34](#))
5. Enduring suffering because He trusts the promises of the Father. ([Hebrews 12:2](#))

Discussion questions:

1. Which of the five realities of living as a son of God do you have the greatest challenge with? How would really seeing yourself as God's son change your approach to these five realities?
2. How would living as a son the way Jesus did impact:
 - a. What you believe about yourself?
 - b. How you approach your relationship with God?
 - c. How you approach your relationships with others?
 - d. How you approach your work?
 - e. How you approach your possessions?
 - f. ow you approach the needs of others?

Reading for this week:

We are encouraged to read [Galatians 5:16-26](#) this week. I encourage you to read these passages every morning, study them and ask God to reveal his plans for you.

What is the difference between allowing God to complete the work He started and you trying harder to be a better son?

Living by the Spirit's Power

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.