

BEING CHILDREN OF GOD

Introduction

- 1) **1 John 3:1** – “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”
- 2) Christians are indeed called “**children of God**” – a wonderful, loving blessing from God
- 3) What does it mean to be “children of God”? What should I understand about our relationship with God and His relationship with us as His children?

I) **God Is Our Father in Heaven**

- A) Every child has a father (family relationship) – God is our spiritual Father
- B) *Old Testament*
 - 1) “Father” rarely used in Old Testament for God but there was a family relationship with the nation of Israel (Ex. 4:22; Deut. 14:1; Hos. 11:1; Jer. 31:20; Isa. 63:16; 64:8)
- C) *New Testament*
 - 1) Numerous uses of “Father” by Jesus and others (Jn. 10:25; 11:41; Matt. 23:9; Eph. 4:6)
 - 2) Jesus taught to address prayer to “Our Father in heaven” (Matt. 6:9; Lk. 11:2)
 - 3) Fuller revelation about our “Father” in heaven came by the Son of God (Jn. 1:14, 18)

II) **Becoming the Children of God**

- A) We are born of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Jn. 1:11-13)
 - 1) Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17), thus we are born again through the word of truth (1 Pet. 1:23; Jas. 1:17-18)
- B) Cannot be a child of the Father without acknowledging His Son, Jesus (1 Jn. 2:21-25)

III) **Joyful Benefits of Being Children of God**

- A) Abiding with the Father and Son (Jn. 14:23-24; 1 Jn. 4:14-16)
- B) All spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3-14)
- C) Instruction and discipline (Heb. 12:5-11)
- D) Heavenly inheritance (Col. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Gal. 3:26-4:7; Rom. 8:14-17)

IV) **“Birthmarks” of the Children of God**

- A) Practice righteousness (1 Jn. 2:29)
 - B) Do not sin (1 Jn. 3:9)
 - C) Love the brethren (1 Jn. 4:7)
 - D) Believe in Jesus the Christ (1 Jn. 5:1)
 - E) Overcome the world (1 Jn. 5:4)
 - F) Not touched by the evil one (1 Jn. 5:18)
- *Not living to be like our Father in heaven will bring shame in the end (1 Jn. 2:28)

Conclusion

Let us live in the present world as **children of God** who shine as lights of righteousness reflective of our Father in heaven (Phil. 2:12-15). What a wonderful blessing to be children of God and part of His family. A more loving and selfless Father we could not have. Obey Him and rejoice in His blessings today and eternally!