

1 JOHN 3:2 (TPT)  
BELOVED, WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN RIGHT NOW;

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UNDERSTANDING SONSHIP



# UNDERSTANDING SON OF GOD

- **1 John 3:2 (KJV)** —Beloved, now are we the sons of God...
  - ‘now’: at this present moment; already
  - ‘sons’: teknon→ child n. — a son or daughter of any age; sometimes referred to collectively as children.
    - Most translations say “children of God”; used interchangeably
- **Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV)** — **26** Then God said, “Let us make man *in* our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man *in* his own image, *in* the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

# CHILDREN OF GOD Dr. Michael Heiser “Unseen Realm”

- “Genesis 1: 26. Humankind was created as God’s image. If we think of imaging as a verb or function, that translation makes sense. We are created to image God, to be his imagers. It is what we are by definition. The image is not an ability we have, but a status.
- We are God’s representatives on earth. To be human is to image God. This is why Genesis 1: 26– 27 is followed by what theologians call the “dominion mandate” in verse 28. The verse informs us that God intends us to be him on this planet. We are to create more imagers (“ be fruitful and multiply ... fill”) in order to oversee the earth by stewarding its resources and harnessing them for the benefit of all human imagers (“ subdue ... rule over”).”

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DIVINE IMAGE BEARER

*DR. MICHAEL HEISER “THE UNSEEN REALM”*

1. Both men and women are equally included. (This leaves no room for racism, slavery, superiority in any respect)
2. Divine image bearing is what makes humankind distinct from the rest of earthly creation (i.e., plants and animals).
3. There is something about the image that makes humankind “like” God in some way.
4. There is nothing in the text to suggest that the image has been or can be bestowed incrementally or partially.
5. Image bearing is not about a special divine ability but a divine status we share with God representing Him in the earth.

# UNDERSTANDING SONSHIP...JOINT HEIR WITH CHRIST

- **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, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
  - ***fellow heir n. — a person who is an heir in the same inheritance as another.***
- It is clearly the Spirit of God that affirms our sonship with God

# UNDERSTANDING SONSHIP...FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY

- **Galatians 4:3–7 (TPT)** — **3** So it is with us. When we were juveniles we were enslaved under the hostile spirits of the world. **4** But when that era came to an end and the time of fulfillment had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the written law. **5** Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set free all those held hostage to the written law so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children. **6** And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, “My Father! You’re our true Father!” **7** Now we’re no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God’s very own sons and daughters! And because we’re his, we can access everything our Father has—for we are heirs of God through Jesus, the Messiah!

# UNDERSTANDING SONSHIP...QUALIFIED FOR INHERITANCE

- **Colossians 1:11–14 (NLT)** — **11** We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, **12** always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. **13** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.
- **Romans 3:24 (NLT)** — Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

# UNDERSTANDING SONSHIP...NO DISTINCTIONS

- **Galatians 3:26–29 (ESV)** — **26** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. **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 no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
- **2 Corinthians 5:16 (TPT)** — So then, from now on, we have a new perspective that refuses to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances. For that's how we once viewed the Anointed One, but no longer do we see him with limited human insight.



## WE REGARD PEOPLE IN ONE RESPECT...BY THEIR ACTIONS.

- 1 Corinthians 5:9–13 (TPT) — 9 I wrote you in my previous letter asking you not to associate with those who practice sexual immorality. 10 Yet in no way was I referring to avoiding contact with unbelievers who are immoral, or greedy, or swindlers, or those who worship other gods—for that would mean you'd have to isolate yourself from the world entirely! 11 But now I'm writing to you so that you would exclude from your fellowship anyone who calls himself a fellow believer and practices sexual immorality, or is consumed with greed, or is an idolater, or is verbally abusive or a drunkard or a swindler. Don't mingle with them or even have a meal with someone like that. 12 What right do I have to pronounce judgment on unbelievers? That's God's responsibility. But those who are inside the church family are our responsibility to discern and judge. So it's your duty to remove that wicked one from among you.

# UNDERSTANDING SONSHIP

- Sonship means we come into agreement with God about our identity
- We are “joint heirs” with Christ: we have the same inheritance
- We operate in a “Spirit of Adoption” that says....

## **1. ALL OF GOD’S PROMISES FOR ME ARE TRUE**

- a. 2 Corinthians 1:20** (NLT) — For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.
- b. Hebrews 10:23** (NLT) — Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.
- c. Hebrews 13:8** (NLT) — Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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## **2. I CAN LIVE IN THE FAVOR OF GOD AND HAVE ACCESS TO ALL HIS BLESSINGS**

- a. Ephesians 1:3 (TPT)** —Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because he sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate him with all our hearts!

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## **3. I CAN HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE OF AND WALK IN MY AUTHORITY AND MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST**

- a. Ephesians 2:19 (TPT)** — So, you are not foreigners or guests, but rather you are the children of the city of the holy ones, with all the rights as family members of the household of God.
- b. Philippians 3:20 (TPT)** — But we are a colony of heaven on earth as we cling tightly to our life giver, the Lord Jesus Christ
- c. 1 John 5:4 (NLT)** — For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

# HOW TO OPERATE IN THE “SPIRIT OF SONSHIP”

## 1. REJECT ANY ORPHAN SPIRIT AT WORK IN YOUR LIFE.

*a. (Demonic spirit that causes someone to feel abandoned, lonely, rejected and isolate. Usually comes when a person has experienced a deep sense of rejection or denial)*

## 2. RENOUNCE ANY LIES THAT COMES FROM AN ORPHAN SPIRIT BY CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS AND ANY THOUGHT THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR SONSHIP.

*a. Lies of rejection by God; not being enough; unworthy; all alone*

## 3. DECLARE YOUR AGREEMENT CONCERNING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

*a. Receive your sonship by speaking God's identity over yourself*

*b. Declare that you possess the mind of Christ in all you do (1 Cor 2:16)*