

Life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

A son of God is not lead by the flesh but by the Spirit of God. In the flesh we never feel good enough to be called sons of God. We always feel as if we do too little or fall short. When we live in the Spirit we realize that we are born out of incorruptible seed and that Christ paid the price for our sin. God adopted us as His children out of His great grace. The Spirit of God is also our Chaperone or Tutor and with His help we can grow in the knowledge of our Father and His Kingdom.

GROUP DISCUSSION

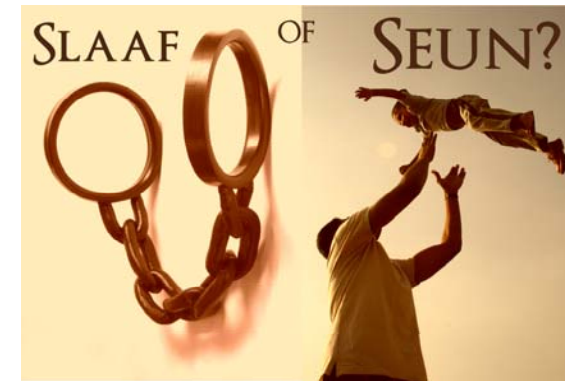
- Read the story of the lost son in Luke 15:11-33. Who were the slaves, the children and sons? Who had a mentality of a slave? How did the father receive the youngest son?
- Read Galatians 4:7 and John 8:35 in various translations and memorise the scripture passage from your favourite translation.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you been baptised and have you publically declared and celebrated the fact that you are a son of God? In which areas of your life do you still have the mentality of a slave or even a child?

PRAYER

Pray for each other - that each person will live as a son of God in the Spirit and not in the flesh.



WEEK 2

CONNECTION

Every family has a unique way of doing things. Can you remember any interesting things from your childhood that was unique to your family? If you are married, what is there that your husband or wife did completely differently to what you were used to?

WORD

Last week we saw how limited a relationship is that a slave has with his master. A slave does not live in the same house as his master and has limited access to certain rooms in the house. A child, on the other hand, has unlimited access!

John 8:35

"And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

In some instances children do not differ much from slaves because they are not at a place where they can take responsibility and ownership for that which belongs to the Father and then also to them as heirs.

Galatians 4:1

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

God didn't make us and plan that we should be slaves. He longs for us to be children in His house - children who will grow up to be sons and co-heirs with Christ.

Ephesians 1:4,5 (Amp)

Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love. For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent]

Ephesians 5:26

To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us [and be recognized as God's sons].

REVEALED AS SONS

When we are born again into God's house, even the angels in heaven rejoice. Baptism is a public declaration and celebration of such a birth.

1 Peter 3:20,21

who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is also the funeral of the old person, as well as the resurrection of the new man.

Romans 6:3,4

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ

Jesus was baptized into His death?

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Our adoption brings an end to the old man - the old man's habits, the old man's illness and shortcomings. In God's house you are a new person, a son and co-heir. The enemy cannot remind you of your habits and sin because the person who's habits and sin it used to be does not live anymore. Furthermore the enemy does not have the right to accuse you in front of God - he lost his place as accuser a long time ago.

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

LEAD BY THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Romans 8:1-9

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from

the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh,

God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the Things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is