

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Children of the King

No 5

Our Elder Brother

Key Verse: Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. John 16.25(NIV)

If God is our father, then we would assume that His Son is our brother. As we examine the relationship that existed between Jesus as Son of Man and God as His heavenly Father we can better understand what it means to also be a child of God.

Consider the Sonship of the Lord Jesus Christ. The 'Father-Son' concept of the eternal word as the Second Person of the trinity is one thing, the identification with the incarnate Jesus is another. We need to set our thinking in order least we distort our view of God and in turn tarnish our attitude toward, and service of, Almighty God.

First Consider Jesus as Eternal God. Here the biblical 'father-son' image explains for us in terms that we can understand, the relationship that exists between the First and Second persons of the trinity even as does the term 'spirit' explain the relationship that exists between the Second and Third Persons of the trinity.

The Second Person, Jesus Christ is our point of reference. We can only know God as we know Jesus Christ:

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. (NIV) See Hebrews 1.1-3 and also John 14.9. This applies not only to God the Father, but also God the Holy Spirit. See John 14.15-17 & 16.13-15. Thus it is that one of the names of the Holy Spirit is 'the Spirit of Jesus Christ', see Philippians 1.19 & Acts 16.7. Spirit is from the word for 'wind' See John 3.6-8. Here 'spirit' and 'wind' are both translated from the Greek word *pneuma*. Either are acceptable.

Second Consider Jesus as the God's Anointed. He became 'one of us'

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman. Galatians 4.4 (NIV)

God sent His Son 'in the likeness of sinful flesh' to be a sin offering.

Jesus was the man God had chosen to be the redeemer of mankind. Look up Romans 8.3, Philippians 2.7 and John 3.16.

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered Hebrews 5.8 (NIV)

Here the word 'learned' is often used in the New Testament as 'to learn by experience'. It does not mean that he passed from disobedience to obedience, but that He is able to appreciate by His own experience the suffering that obedience incurs.

Third Consider Him as Our High Priest. The High priest was one chosen from amongst men of the priestly line. His function was to represent men to God and to make atonement for their sins. See Exodus 28&29 and compare Hebrews 5.1-5.

Thus today He is our man in Heaven, our representative, one of us, our representative. Revelation 1.13

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Heb 2.17(NIV)

Notice How Jesus the Man Called God 'My Father'.

We find Him using the phrase as recorded by Matthew 12 times, Luke 4 times and John 23 times (Mark none). Nowhere did Jesus directly claim to be the 'Son of God' although He was charged with having made the claim at His trial, John 19.7, and when pressed to make the admission in Luke 22.70 He affirmed it. In John 5.25 we find him using the phrase in His teaching. The term is used by others, the apostles, his contemporaries and notably Satan at his temptation and the demons. He repeatedly referred to himself as 'the Son of Man', in the third person. The preferred term used by Jesus was 'My Father'. Jesus enjoyed a father-son relationship with God throughout His earthly pilgrimage.

Remember the Relationship Jesus Enjoyed With His Disciples.

Jesus called God 'My Father' and His disciples He called 'my brethren'.

Notice what Jesus said to Mary.

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20.17(NIV)

The words are also recorded in Matthew 28.10. It is clear that Jesus meant the disciples as his brothers,

and not his brothers by birth. See Matthew 12.46-50. The term 'brother' here must be considered in the same context as 'father', that kind of relationship. The form of words gives emphasis to the nature of relationship and as Ellicott says, "It declares the continuance of His human nature". The resurrected Jesus was still the human Jesus, and the ascended Jesus is still the human Jesus. His resurrection is God's declaration of His adoption as Son of God. Romans 1.4. See Study No 4.

Learn from the Teaching of the Apostles. It is the apostles who take up this theme in their teaching. In their letters they referred to 'brother' or 'sister' as a reference to believers in the Lord some 186 times, and God as 'our heavenly Father' some 25 times.

The amazing thing for us is that although we are sinful people, God is not ashamed to have us in His family or Jesus to own us as brethren.

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. Hebrews 2.11(NIV).

See also Hebrews 11.16. & 12.2 and Mark 8.38

Ashamed of Jesus? See 2 Timothy 1.12, Romans & 1.16

This theme begs further study.

This is a wonderful truth that is taught in the New Testament. It is also a liberating truth for it confers on us the rights and responsibilities of membership in His family. We may come into His presence at any time and make our needs known. We may shelter under the care of His protection. We may relax in His fellowship. We also have a share in the family name, in the family business and are responsible to maintain the family honour.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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