

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Children of the King

No 7

## Our Family Heritage

*Key Verse: For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. Ephesians 3.14&15(NIV)*

The word 'family' in our Key Verse is from the Greek *patria*. It means more literally 'fatherhood' derived from 'father' or in the Greek text *pater*, as used earlier in this verse. The lexicon gives the *patria* the meaning of 'family, family line, clan, people or nation'. Paul is not thinking of every nation on earth for he limits it to 'his whole fatherhood', to those who by reason of new birth are entitled and delighted to call Him 'father'.

Some see the words 'whole family' as encompassing the angels, but there is no solid justification for that. There is however a theological and textual warrant to include the men and women of faithful Israel with the redeemed of every nation. See Ephesians 2.11-22 and 3.6. All have share the 'fatherhood' of God and all share the rich spiritual heritage in Christ.

### **Relationship. We share a common ancestor, a proto-genitor.**

In Ephesians 3.6 Paul tells us that men in former generations did not understand that it was God's plan to incorporate both Jew and Gentile into one family.

The point is this, whether the Jew through the institutions of Israel looking forward to the coming Messiah, or the Gentile looking back to Jesus through the preaching of the Gospel, both find the ground of acceptance by God on the basis of their faith in what He alone has done in Christ and His work upon the cross.

### **Likeness. It is God's plan that we should be in His likeness.**

When God created Adam, He created him in His own likeness Genesis 1.26-7 & 5.1, and this

likeness gives man to choose, as demonstrated in his authority over God's creation.

Remember this likeness was moral for man is a moral being. Adam was created in innocence, that is without a knowledge of and participation in sin. But he did sin and sin marred that image. When Adam and Eve pro-created (an act of choice) and children were born to them, they passed on their own image to their children Genesis 5.3.

The pattern has continued. Men and women have passed on to their children both a marred image and a corrupted morality. See Romans 1.21-23 and 3.23.

In time God sent His Son, who was: the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1.3.(NIV)

His work upon the cross not only provided the purification of our sins but to recreate those whom He has purified in the likeness of His Son.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8.29.(NIV)

This likeness is the family likeness. It is a moral likeness. As God is holy (that is upright, true in every particular) so He stamps His moral image on all those who choose to call Him father and walk in His way.

This likeness is a growing thing.

Beginning where we are God starts changing us to be more like Jesus:

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3.18.(NIV)

He does not change our nationality, our social status, our personality or our circumstances. He changes our heart - to one like His own. He gives us a new outlook, new desires, new interests, new responses; in fact a new nature, and that new heart begins to make changes in all other things.

### **Heritage**

It is His likeness that confers upon you the right to membership in His family. You also carry His name. From the words of Jesus He told His disciples they were to:

share His home John 14.3.

share His life. John 10.28, 14.6.

share His status John 15.20.

share His mission John 15.27.

share His identity John 17.21.

As sons we take up the honour and reproach of our heavenly father and with it our elder brother. If we are to share the glory so we need bear this worlds misunderstanding. It goes with the territory.

### **Inheritance**

It is His likeness that qualifies you and me to rule in the Kingdom of God.

There are Blessings to enjoy now.

John says, '*Beloved, now are we the sons of God . . .*' 1 John 3.1. and as His sons His life is ours now.

Everlasting life starts the moment we believe in Jesus (John 3.16).

There is no waiting, no qualifying period. We are accepted of God in His beloved Son instantly and all the blessings of living in Christ are ours to claim. Yet there is more -

There is an inheritance to come. (See Ephesians 1.13&14 and 18, Colossians 3.24, Hebrews 9.15, 1 Peter 1.5 etc.) There is more to come than we now can imagine Here is but a taste. See Colossians 3.4, 1 John 3.2 and Romans 8.22-25. There is the crown of righteousness that God will award to His faithful. 2 Timothy 4.8

We are to sit with Him in His throne Revelation 3.20-21, and reign with Him Revelation 20.6. In parable form Matthew 25.31-46. 'Come and share your master's happiness.'

# Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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