

Lesson One: I Am a Beloved Child of God

- I. **Who do you think you are? “Think” is the important word here. Romans 12:2** ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - a. **As our mind is continually renewed to see the great and awesome things that God has done for us through Jesus, we will prove what His will for us is.**
 - b. **We are transformed (metamorphosis, the change of a caterpillar into a butterfly) by focusing our minds on what Jesus has accomplished for us instead of unendingly focusing on the natural occurrence of events in and around us.**
 - c. **2 Corinthians 3:18** ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - i. **As we behold all the glories of the Lord as if they were already ours, like looking in a mirror and seeing all of Jesus’ beauty and perfection upon us, we are transformed into His image.**

II. **The purpose of this series is to unveil who Jesus is to us and the great things He has accomplished for us so we can think on these things and be transformed.**

III. **God loved us before we were His children.**

Romans 5:6-8

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

IV. **It was prophesied that the Gentiles would be called the sons of the living God.**

Romans 9:25-26

As He says also in Hosea: “I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.” ²⁶ “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.”

V. **It is by faith in Jesus that we become children of God.**

John 1:10-13

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 3:26

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

The word translated *children* is *Huios* and is the important word here. This word signifies someone of full age. Under law, the individual was in his minority and under a guardian. Now, under grace, he has attained his majority, having outgrown the surveillance of his former guardian.

Wuest's Word Studies -

VI. It is God's deep love for us that allows us to be called His children.

1 John 3:1-3 AMPLIFIED¹

See what [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him. ² Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is. ³ And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless).

VII. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17

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.

a. *Being a joint heir means that what Jesus gets, we will get.*

Luke 12:32

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

VIII. As children of God we are partakers of the divine nature.²

2 Peter 1:1b-4

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

IX. We are adopted children of God.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are from the NKJV © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

² This does not mean we are deity, but that we are like Him.

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us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

X. Because we are sons, we cry out “Abba, Father!”

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear (referring to the law), but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Galatians 4:5-7

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

XI. The children of God are led by the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:14

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

We are “dear” children who imitate their Father.

Ephesians 4:32; 5:1

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore (because of what Jesus did for you) be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

XII. Because we are children of God, we shine as lights in the world.

Philippians 2:12-16

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

XIII. Because we are born of God, we love each other.

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

XIV. As God’s children we are highly favored in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ

to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (charitoo: highly favored, freely bestowed upon) in the Beloved.

XV. Because He loves us God our Father has given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace.

2 Thessalonians 2:16

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting **consolation** and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

Consolation par-ak'-lay-sis

imploration, hortation, solace: - comfort, consolation, exhortation, intreaty.

*Acts 9:31 ³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the **comfort** of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.*

When the main opposition to the Church was removed, Saul of Tarsus, the Church had peace, comfort from God, and growth. We likewise have the comfort of the Holy Spirit and good hope in every good word and work, because God is our Father and loves us.

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

XVI. God's love for us as His children is extravagant and not dependent our behavior.
Luke 15:20-21

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."

If we are going the wrong way He runs toward us and lavishes His love on us because we are His child.

³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.

To those of us who are not going the wrong way, He lavishes His love on us by declaring that ALL that He has is ours.

Romans 8:32 ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?