

The Scripture in John 1 makes one thing very clear. All persons who will receive the Son God Go (believe on His Name) are given the power to be sons of God themselves. It is not a matter of race or family, goodness or will...it is a matter of believing on Him who came to save us. This truth is repeated in 1 John 3:1-3 and has a theological explanation in Galatians 4:1-6. But ultimately it is the same point: the believer is a child of God. We use the word "son", not in the masculine sense, but in the "child sense." So it is that all those who are led by the spirit of God (Romans 8) they are the sons of God. It is a matter of birth and appointment...both factors made real through the new birth and the indwelling spirit. The point of this discussion is not to set forth a new truth but to bring emphasis to one that should be clearly known and with the added emphasis to urge a conduct that suits the position.

B. Discussion

1. The character of the position of Son....

Basically we know what a son is...but the forcefulness of the Biblical position sometimes escapes us due to a lack of attention. We note the following things that define the position of the son in the hope that these points will make us think more emphatically of what family membership involves:

a. Adoption (Galatians 4:5)...One of the most basic facts. By the Spirit of God we are placed as sons in the Holy Family. By this work we are able to speak of the God of the Universe as "Father" and to think of him in a personal and definitive sense. This proximity to God is not found in other representative religious ideologies although it is often treated as something to be sought. It is what we have in Christ...by the new birth we have been made legal heirs in the family of God. It