

The Sons of God among Men

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:14-17.

B. God's way of releasing us in the way of pressure is to remind us of who we are in Him.

C. To be in Christ is to be in the Spirit.

D. Behavior depends on seeing and recognizing whom one is. If one believes what he is, he will begin to act that way.

II. What being in Christ and in the Spirit actually means.

A. All believers male and female are sons of God.

B. Not everyone is a son of God--one is only a son of God by faith. (Galatians 5)

C. If a believer is having difficulty with sin, he must remember what God made him to be--we are sons of God and nothing can change this.

D. How one becomes a son of God.

1. One is adopted into the family of God.

2. One is also born into the family of God.

3. These two concepts highlight different aspects of belonging to the family of God.

4. The believer is said to be adopted because he is not naturally part of the family of God having inherited Adam's nature.

5. By the process of the Spirit, the believer becomes legally a member of the family of God.

6. The tie to Jesus is so real that we share in the divine nature--we are as much a part of the family of God as if we had been born into that family.

7. As sons of God, we have special privileges before Him.

E. Levels of assurance regarding son-ship.

1. If one is led by the Spirit of God, he can know he is of the Spirit.

a. The Spirit teaches us truth.

b. The Spirit arouses us to pray.

c. The Spirit awakens a love for fellow believers.

2. If one has an emotional response to God that is aware of His fatherhood, he can know he has the Spirit.

3. If there is a personal witness of the Spirit, one can know that he belongs to God.

4. If we are sons of God, we are heirs of God.

Application questions:

1. How would you summarize what being “in Christ” means?

2. Why is being “in Christ” important to know when one is struggling with sin?

3. How would you respond to the believer struggling with assurance of his salvation? Explain.
