

Living As A Son of God vs. As An Orphan

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Discerning the Difference Between Orphans and Sons!

- Orphans thrive on more information . . . sons thrive on revelation from the Father!
- Orphans are afraid of mysteries (things they don't understand) while sons pursue the Father for understanding.

Have you noticed how little children (grandchildren) have a 1000 questions? They ask, believing that we adults have ALL the answers - why? They feel loved and safe!!

In the church the 'orphan' spirit causes us to view the church as a place of 'membership with benefits' rather than a family with each member having contribution and responsibility.

- Orphans are loyal to who or what meets their needs, protects or promotes them . . . sons are loyal to their Father!
- Orphans are driven out of fear, sons are led by faith.
- An orphan spirit defines blessing in material terms, a son defines blessing as the natural result of living in intimacy with his Father.
- An orphan spirit is always pulling us into performance, a son is always responding in obedience to the Father's voice.
- The orphan spirit causes us to worry about:
 - ⇒ our provision . . . will I have enough?
 - ⇒ our protection . . . who will defend or watch out for me?
 - ⇒ our purpose . . . why am I here, I am worthless or I am a failure, and the lies are endless!
- A son of God walks in the revelation that his Father is going to provide, protect and reveal His purpose through intimate fellowship.

When our provision, protection and purpose are not met or revealed according to 'our' desires or timing, an orphan spirit will lead us to look for these legitimate needs in illegitimate places.

In the absence of the joy of sonship, we create our own idols!

- The spirit of greed and poverty (or lack) are both manifestations of an orphan spirit, but generous and sacrificial giving are evidence of walking in sonship.
- Let us look at what the Word of God says about living as a son of God vs. being controlled and consumed by an orphan spirit!

Jesus speaks the following words:

John 14:15-18

vs. 18 "I will not leave you orphans,"

The apostle Paul to the believers in Rome:

Romans 8:12-17 vs. 14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
vs. 15 “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Paul to the church in Galatia:

Galatians 3:26 thru 4:7 3:26 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
4:26 “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

• Our enemy is real and we are in a battle! The author of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 2:10 that God is bringing ‘many sons to glory’!

Identifying our enemy according to Scripture:

The World, The Flesh and the Devil and how they affect sonship!

1.) The World

When we seek to find our identity in the things of this world, then we are living as an orphan and not as a son of God.

Read these challenging verses:

I John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world . . .”

I John 3:1-2 called “children of God”

I John 5:4 victory over the world . . . our faith!!

James 1:27 “and to keep oneself unspotted from the world

James 4:1-5 “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?”

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world . . .”

Only one solution: We must renounce ‘the world’ . . . we are in it, but not of it!! We must develop biblical core values out of which we make our decisions and live our lives.

2.) The Flesh

When we pursue our carnal (old nature) passions and desires, we live as orphans, never being fully satisfied and always looking for our provision, protection and purpose to be met in the wrong place or relationship.

Look at Galatians 5:19-21 for a clear description of the work of the flesh (carnal nature).

We must embrace the following truth if we are to overcome the ‘flesh’.

Galatians 2:20 “I’ve been crucified with Christ!”

Galatians 5:24 “crucified . . . passions and desires . . .”

Galatians 6:14 The cross brings death to the desires for the world!

I Cor. 1:18 “the cross, . . . the power of God!”

II Cor. 5:15 “live no longer for themselves (self)!”

These is only one cure for the flesh . . . and that is the cross!!

3.) The Devil

The devil and his wicked forces will stop at nothing to deceive God's sons and daughters in order to prevent them from walking in the truth. If he cannot sidetrack you with worldly desires or through your carnal nature, which is opposed to the cross, he will assign and release the forces of darkness and hell against your soul.

A child of God who does not walk in the revelation of his 'sonship' will be paralyzed by the lies and deceptive schemes of the devil

The Scriptures instruct us how to deal with the devil and his schemes.

Eph. 6:10-18 vs 10-11 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Biblical Examples:

*One of David's might men - Shammah (means "God is here") took a stand!
II Samuel 23: 11-12*

When we decide to take a stand against the enemy, God's Word says that He will come and defeat our enemies.

King David's Psalm 18 gives us a clear picture of the battle we are in.

Read:

Psalm 18:37-42 "I have pursued . . . I beat them as fine as dust . . ."

David had to take action, not be passive, in defeating his enemies.

Just a few verses earlier in Psalm 18:4-5 David says, "The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me."

David experienced, just as you do, the reality of discouragement, doubt and unbelief but he strengthened himself in the Lord and God gave him victory over his enemies. He does the same for you!

How to overcome the enemy?

- 1.) We must have a strategy and proactive plan to defeat the enemy. ***You can't be passive and win this battle!***
Renounce the ways of the world and develop biblical 'core values' out of which you make daily decisions and live your life.
- 2.) Choose to deny your flesh and embrace the cross. The Apostle Paul said, "I die daily." Choose to deal with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life.

Young men and young women - stay pure!

Don't buy into the worldly ideas of dating which just opens the door to immorality and all kinds of destruction in your life.

In Ecclesiastes 4:12 it says “a threefold cord is not easily broken.”

The enemy has a powerful ‘threefold cord’, the world, the flesh and the devil (demonic), and quite frankly, he doesn’t care which one or what combination he has to use to take you out of your God ordained calling and destiny.

But the good news is that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is a much, much stronger ‘threefold cord’ that cannot be broken!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this morning?

Are you living as a son of God or does the ‘orphan spirit’ rob you of the joy and life of God?

Do you find yourself fighting fear, hopelessness and despair?

Have the ‘cords of death’ entangled you?

OR

Are you walking in the revelation of the knowledge of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?