

“Called as Sons & Daughters”

Introduction

- As believers, because of the cultural messages that surround us, we must be careful not to despise the received aspects of our identity that have come to us through our parents. Rather, we must consider what it means for us to be the children of our parents in light of our also being the children of the Living God.

Key Point: A recognition of ourselves as _____ and _____ should be fundamental to our identity and to our understanding of God’s calling on our lives to serve Him and others in the world.

Insight from General Revelation

- We are *all* children.**

To be a child is to have an origin that was outside of our control. It means that we receive significant aspects of our identity apart from our own choices and decisions.

We are shaped by our _____

- Much of our individual identity is the result of heredity (our biological inheritance). We have physical traits that we inherit from our parents as well as aspects of our personality that reflect them as well.

We are shaped by our _____

- Much of our individual identity is also the result of how we were raised. Were we raised by one or both parents? Did we have a religious upbringing? What kinds of things were we allowed to do? What sort of things were done to us?

Key Point: Recognizing ourselves as sons and daughters allows us to better understand ourselves in light of our own _____ and our _____.

Insight from Special Revelation

- The Lord gives *commands* to sons and daughters.**

Exod. 20:12—“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord...is giving you.

Col. 3:20—Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

⇒ Children are to recognize the inherit authority that God has given to their parents and _____ accordingly.

- The Lord gives *warnings* to sons and daughters.**

Exod. 21:15,17—¹⁵ “Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death...”¹⁷ “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Deut. 21:18, 20-21—¹⁸ “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them...”²⁰ they shall say to the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’²¹ Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Prov. 30:17— The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

⇒ Children are to recognize the seriousness of _____ their parents.

- The Lord *exhorts* sons and daughters.**

Prov. 1:8—Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching

Prov. 10:1b—A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

Prov. 23:25—Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

⇒ The relationship between children and their parents is intended by God to be a blessing but, because of sin, it can often be experienced as a _____.

Key Point: To live well in the world as sons and daughters, we need to be both _____ and _____ of God’s Word.

Living as Believing Sons & Daughters

- **Love for our Heavenly Father should take precedence over our love for our parents.**

John 1:12-13—¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Matt. 10:37a—Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me...

- **We are to *honor* our father and mother throughout the duration of their/our lives.**

“honor”—כָּבַד (*kabad*)— To honor or do honor to (the root carries the idea of something being heavy).

τιμάω (*timáō*)— To have in honor, to revere; to estimate the value of something.

In our youth, honoring our parents is characterized primarily by _____.

Eph. 6:1-3—¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

⇒ In this stage of our lives, the Lord is teaching us about the importance of recognizing His _____.

In our young adulthood, honoring our parents is characterized primarily by seeking their _____ and desiring be a blessing to them.

Prov. 23:22—Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Psalms 128:1,3,6—¹ Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!...³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table...⁶ May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

Prov. 31:28a—Her children rise up and call her blessed...

⇒ In this stage of our lives, the Lord is teaching us the importance of seeking His _____.

In our mature adulthood, honoring our parents is characterized primarily by _____ for their needs.

1 Tim. 5:4,8—⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God...⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⇒ In this stage, the Lord is teaching us what it means for us to respond with _____ to God's providential care for us in our lives.

Key Point: As we love our Father in Heaven, we will love our parents and desire to _____ them.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Embracing our identity as sons and daughters helps us to overcome our inherent _____.
2. Recognizing ourselves as _____ sons and daughters allows us to be _____ towards our parents.
3. The church affords us the opportunity to love and minister to _____ believers as our ‘parents’ in the faith.