

GOD'S PROMISE TO BECOME OUR FATHER

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

INTRO: Our over all theme in this series of lessons is Standing on the Promises of God, and our lesson for today is God's Promise to Become our Father. Remember, God always keeps His promises.

I. THE WORD "FATHER" IS USED SEVERAL WAYS IN THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. A male parent, Eph 6:2.
- B. A more remote ancestor, a forefather, 2 Pet 3:4.
- C. One who has taught another the gospel, 1 Cor 4:15
- D. A leader of men in civil or religious circles, Acts 7:2
- E. Forbidden to be used as a title of honor in religion, MT 23:9
- F. One who originates something, JN 8:44; Gen 4:21
- G. One whose personality or characteristics are imitated,
"like father, like son" JN 8:39-44a

II. THERE ARE SOME SENSES IN WHICH GOD IS THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND.

- A. The origin or history of man, Heb 12:9; Acts 17:28
- B. The nature of man, Gen 1:26-27. Immortal spirit, ability to think, plan, reason, decide, etc.

III. A LOOK AT THE PROMISES. READ ROM 9:24-26

...You may be sons of your Father who is in heaven (MT 5:47)

...I will receive you, I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons & daughters, says the Lord Almighty (2 Cor 6:17-18)

IV. CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE PROMISES.

- A. Spiritual birth. READ JOHN 1:12-13; 3:3-5
Titus 3:5; Romans 6:3-5
- B. Developing God-like characteristics of kindness, love, generosity, mercy, etc.

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you & pray for those who spitefully use you & persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil & on the good, & sends rain on the just & on the unjust. (MT 5:44-45).

- C. Refrain from unequal yokes that would lead to impure thoughts & practices. READ 2 COR. 6:14-18
- D. Let God's Spirit lead you by His word, Rom. 8:14-17.

V. BENEFITS OF MEETING THESE CONDITIONS & MAINTAINING A FATHER/CHILD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- A. Being in His spiritual family, the church, with the best people on earth. Not sinless, not perfect, but forgiven & heaven bound. 1 Tim 3:15.

But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence & the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Heb 3:6).

READ MARK 10:29-30

- B. Having the privilege of going to God in prayer as our Father & having the assurance that He will hear us.

READ MATTHEW 7:7-11

- C. Having the assurance that He will supply our needs, MT 6:31-33.
- D. Having Jesus as our High Priest & His blood for the perpetual cleansing of our sins, Heb 10:19-23.
- E. Finally, having an eternal inheritance in heaven. 1 Peter 1:3-4

CONCLUSION: All these things & others can be ours by becoming

children of God & maintaining that relationship by meeting God's conditions. READ 2 PETER 1:3-4.

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