

8th November Sunday 2009

The spirit of sonship: Questions

John 17: 20-23

Romans 8:15-16

Paul thought he was so right about God but was so wrong (thought he was faithfully serving God, then met Jesus!)

What about you? Are you sure that you know what God is like?

John17

Context: Farewell Discourse. Ch14-17 Last conversation with disciples.

Three things:

1. V21 be one, how one? Like Jesus and the Father. Father and son

- Many people become Christians and can cope with Jesus, even find him radical and life changing but stop when it comes to having relationship with God the Father,
- yet **Heb 1:3 "exact representation of Father"** Jesus says "if you have seen me you have seen the Father"
- Yet in reality we cope with Jesus but then bring a negative experience from our own life, from our own fathers or other authority figures and we never have real relationship with Father God
- **Ch 14 "I am the way, truth and life. No one comes to the Father except through me"**
- Aim is that we come to know the Father, like Jesus does!! I can't do anything without the Father
- **So we can understand a God of Discipline and judgement** yes but what about **2 Cor 1:3 Father of compassion and God of all comfort**
- **Compassion**, def "*ability to enter into what another is feeling*" not letter of law/just do it but "I am with you" the God who loves to come and hug.

2. V22 Glory that you gave me, I have given it to them (note not will give but have) i.e. sonship!

- Everyone who has believed in Jesus has been given this glory. **What is it?** Light brightness splendour?
- It is the glory of sonship.
- That is why he laid down his life cos he loved the father more than himself. That is why I am willing to lay my life down, to take sin and judgement, disease, everything they deserve, so that the guilty may go free. Ie so that they are in a position now to receive the glory that you have given me. The glory that the father has given Jesus. What does that look like?

Story about God speaking to man called Peter Jackson, heard God ask him adopt a teenage girl/very broken and abused/God said make the commitment first and adopt her! /God does not wait for you to get your act together before he adopts you. Adopt this child and then let God heal her.

When the novelty wore off, found the mess. She did not know how to receive love. Three years like this. Then whilst away on a camp, she heard someone share how he adopted a one year old boy, with a spirit of rejection. Can't receive love how ever much they loved him. Spoke about the pain of trying to love the unlovable. Peter's adopted daughter saw what it must have been like for Peter. How Peter had always wanted her to take the place in his heart prepared for her. Broken through with peters wife, but not with Peter. He had love to give her but she could not receive it. So she called peters wife, heather , "mum" but peter was always "peter" not "Dad"

She saw how she had been rejecting the love reserved for her, and not receiving her position as "daughter"
God: " I have shown you the love I have for one daughter and how she can receive it but that is how much of my church are like"

This love is freely given and freely received. You can't earn it...you have to receive it.

When Henry comes home from play school he walks up to door and opens it and walks confidently in and shouts "Dad, I'm home" His expectation is I will drop everything and hug him and engage. Why? He knows that he has a place in the family. He does not question it.

Hosea 13:8 Says that God is like a mother bear who has had her cubs torn away. Such is the strength of the mother bear she is unstoppable. A jealous love, He is in pursuit of you! Do you believe that?

We need to believe that! To fully accept it as truth.

What else comes into your head when I said that? It needs to become a reality "that is my dad" Not just a nice verse that I read

How? I choose to believe it by faith through grace. That is how the kingdom works. I make a choice to believe truth, to put my confidence in a truth, and that faith opens the door for grace to come in and enable me.

That is what happened when you get saved. You choose to accept what Jesus did and then grace breaks in,

Head knowledge is key but it will not keep me ..it is heart.

If we are not being ruined by God's love, then we will look to other things to get that need met

God is jealous, a holy jealousy for you.

He will not allow a need to met in your life that he intends to fill himself

- **Not just a legal thing i.e. you're in!** but you actually experience on earth, the spirit of adoption. Legally when you adopt, you sign the paper, and it is done. She belongs to the new parents, she takes on new name, sealed, done deal. Same for us. **But that is not the same as receiving the spirit of sonship.** This is my daughter whom I love, this is my son whom I love.
- **Have you received it?** Not do you know that your name is written in the book but Daddy you are mine, your are my dad,

3. V23 our sonship (unity) is meant to impact the world, in the same way as Jesus

- From eternity past to all eternity future the father and Jesus have had this oneness until that day when it was broken on the cross so that I could have the oneness.
- Not cos he had to but cos he wanted to demonstrate what love is. Any one can lay down their life for those who love them but who will die for the enemy, Hitler, Bin Laden, Stalin? He took everything so that I could have relationship with Jesus and then to have relationship with the father that Jesus has.
- **That is what we are called to, to love our enemies**

QUESTIONS

Q. Share/Describe how you feel and think of your relationship with Jesus and then compare this with your relationship with God the Father. Are there reasons (from your life past or present) for explaining any differences?

Q. What would your life look like now, if you had always known the place you have in the Father's heart, with perfect love and perfect understanding from the day you were born and lived under "this is my son, daughter whom I love and in whom I am well pleased"

Q. Have you received your place as a son or daughter of God the Father in your heart? You may want to choose to receive it now (Faith) by repenting and accepting God the Father or receive it again by soaking in His presence