

John 14:18 - We are no longer orphans

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Last week when we celebrated Easter Sunday I asked the question “What significance does Jesus hold in your life” and then went onto explain how that applied to me personally.

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The overriding theme for my relationship with Jesus is that he will **NEVER** leave me or forsake me, even when my attitude to him varies, he will not change his attitude and relationship with me.

That does not mean that I can slack off and not give him my all but it does give me and I hope all of you **GREAT** confidence that you have his approval and from that base we work out our salvation with fear and trembling as it says in Philippians.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Notice that it never says work **FOR** your salvation but rather work **OUT** your salvation. What God has done in you, needs to come out of you in a continually changing life that includes our affections, our relationships, our motives and our goals.

I was chatting with some folk in our church this week and one of them said to me in an email about how as Christians we need to “be first of all established in God’s gift of righteousness and grace to us and then we can launch everything else off that foundation!”

And I couldn’t agree more with that statement and this morning I want to follow up on that as when God called me to begin this church I also felt that God wanted me to preach the good news or the gospel of a restored relationship to God through Jesus with all of its out of this world benefits, even if it was foolishness to those who would not believe.

We must always remember that this gospel needs to be preached to unbelievers, but just as importantly it needs to be preached to believers as well.

We need to also be preaching this message of God’s life giving grace to ourselves continually until we are firmly established and growing continually in the wonderful good news of God’s grace.

Paul scolded the Christians in his letter to the Galatians for beginning with the spirit, but then trying to perfect themselves in the flesh.

Galatians 3:1-3

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

We also need to be continually on our guard as believers that we don't resort to working hard to **GUARANTEE** God's favour in our lives, but rather we need to working hard in our lives **BECAUSE** of God's favour in our lives.

This morning I am going to finish off with a PowerPoint presentation that contrasts these two attitudes and how they can play out in our lives with God and each other.

But before I do that we need to be reminded of one of the most precious teachings from the scriptures that describe our new relationship to the Father through Jesus by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said to his disciples in John 14:18

John 14:18

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

And now a few scriptures that describe what God has done by not leaving us as orphans.

Romans 8:15

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Now to finish off the presentation that contrasts the attitude of an orphan as opposed to an adopted son or daughter of the King.

Let's pray.

IMAGE OF GOD

- Orphan Heart:
See God
as a task
Master
- Heart of Sonship:
See God as
Lord but also a
loving Father

DEPENDENCY

- Orphan Heart:
Independent,
self-reliant.
Must work
alone
- Heart of Sonship:
Interdependent,
acknowledges
need. Willing to
work with
others

THEOLOGY

- Orphan Heart:
Live by the
Love of Law
- Heart of Sonship:
Live by the
Law of Love

SECURITY

- Orphan Heart:
Insecure, lack
of peace
- Heart of Sonship:
Rest and peace

NEED FOR APPROVAL

- Orphan Heart:
Strive for the praise, approval, and acceptance of man
- Heart of Sonship:
Totally accepted in God's love and justified by His grace

MOTIVE FOR SERVICE

- Orphan Heart:
A need for personal achievement as you seek to impress God and others, or no motivation to serve at all
- Heart of Sonship:
Service that is motivated by a deep gratitude for being unconditionally loved and accepted by God

MOTIVE BEHIND CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- Orphan Heart:
Duty and earning God's favour or no motivation at all
- Heart of Sonship:
Pleasure and delight

MOTIVE FOR PURITY

- Orphan Heart:
“**Must**” be holy to have God’s favour thus increasing a sense of shame and guilt
- Heart of Sonship:
Want to be holy, do not want anything to hinder intimate relationship with God

SELF-IMAGE

- Orphan Heart:
Self-rejection
from comparing
yourself to others
- Heart of Sonship:
Positive and
affirmed because
you know you
have such value
to God

SOURCE OF COMFORT

- Orphan Heart:
Seek comfort in counterfeit affections
(ex. addictions, compulsions, escapism, busyness, hyper-religious activity)
- Heart of Sonship:
Seek times of quietness and solitude to rest in the Father's presence and love

PEER RELATIONSHIPS

- Orphan Heart:
Competition, rivalry and jealousy towards others' success and position
- Heart of Sonship:
Humility and unity as you value others and are able to rejoice in their blessings and success

HANDLING OTHERS' FAULTS

- Orphan Heart:
Accusation and exposure in order to make yourself look good by making others look bad
- Heart of Sonship:
Love covers as you seek to restore others in a spirit of love and gentleness

VIEW OF AUTHORITY

- Orphan Heart:
See authority as a source of pain; distrustful towards them and lack a heart attitude of submission
- Heart of Sonship:
Respectful, honouring; as you see them as ministers of God for good in your life

VIEW OF ADMONITION

- Orphan Heart:
Difficulty receiving admonition; you must be right so you are easily hurt
- Heart of Sonship:
See God as a loving Father so you are secure and willing to learn from correction

EXPRESSION OF LOVE

- Orphan Heart:
Guarded and conditional; based upon others' performance as you seek to get your own needs met
- Heart of Sonship:
Open, patient and affectionate as you lay your life and agendas down in order to meet the needs of others

SENSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

- Orphan Heart:
Conditional
and distant
- Heart of Sonship:
Close and
intimate

CONDITION

- Orphan Heart:
Bondage
- Heart of Sonship:
Liberty

POSITION

- Orphan Heart:
Feel like a servant or slave looking for approval
- Heart of Sonship:
Feel like a son/daughter knowing that you are loved

VISION

- Orphan Heart:
Spiritual ambition; the earnest desire for some spiritual achievement and distinction and the willingness to strive for it; a desire to be seen and counted among the mature
- Heart of Sonship:
To daily experience the Father's unconditional love and acceptance and then be sent as a representative of His love to family and others

FUTURE

- Orphan Heart:
Fight for what
you can get!
- Heart of Sonship:
Sonship
releases your
inheritance!