

Eternity Daily Bible Study

The Importance Of Love

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Verses: Romans 8:14-19

Topic: Love Reveals The Children of God

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Who are the true heirs of this world? Who will inherit all things on the Last Day? For there are currently many false claimants, for example the Devil (Luke 4:1-11) and the Beast (Revelation 13). Who is it, who in the end, will inherit the kingdom of God? We do know some of the answers, as unlikely as they seem just now:

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek! For they shall inherit the earth.*

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 *So let no one glory in men; for all things are yours, (22) whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours, (23) and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

In fact the whole of Creation groans under these false and evil claimants, and awaits the revelation of who the true sons of God really are. There will be a vast liberation of all things when the sons of God come into their inheritance and rule and reign over Creation with righteousness and love:

Romans 8:14-19 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive a spirit of slavery again to fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption by which we cry, Abba! Father! (16) The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God. (17) And if children, also heirs; truly heirs of God, and joint-heirs of Christ, if indeed we suffer together, that we may also be glorified together. (18) For I calculate that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to compare to the coming glory to be revealed in us. (19) For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.*

This story of the sons of God starts with a kingdom prepared for us "before the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34)! The entire Creation was made through Jesus, by Jesus and for Jesus. Creation finds its culmination in Christ and is held together by Him. The whole meaning of life, the Universe and everything is found in the story of the glory of the Son of God and every tree, flower and planet has its foundation in Him, because they were made "for Him" (Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 1:1-3).

In the beginning the Creation did not yet exist, and it was brought into existence to tell the story of the Son of God, to reveal Him to men and angels and heavenly beings, almost as a huge stage set to tell a grand drama about Jesus and His redemption. Eventually, when the story of redemption has been told, this Creation will be rolled up and a new heaven and a new earth will be made in which righteousness dwells and where God will dwell with men who will inherit the Kingdom (Revelation chapters 20-22). But who are these mysterious people, these sons who reveal the Father?

Those who reveal Christ most are those made in the image of God. They are the sons of God, those who bear the family likeness and spiritual genetics. Indeed the preaching, lifestyle, sufferings, miracles and testimonies of the first apostles revealed the life and nature of Christ to a remarkable extent:

2 Corinthians 4:9-13 *being persecuted, but not being forsaken; being thrown down, but not having been destroyed; (10) always bearing about the dying of the Lord Jesus in the body, that also the life of Jesus may be revealed in our body. (11) For we who live are always being delivered up to death on account of Jesus, that also the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh; (12) so that death indeed works in us, and life in you. (13) But having the same spirit of faith, according to what has been written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,*

Galatians 1:15-16 *But when God was pleased, He having separated me from my mother's belly, and having called me through His grace, (16) to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the nations, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,*

The purpose of Paul's life, from birth, was that God "might reveal His Son in me"! Incredible! Paul was to be living revelation of Jesus the Son of God! Now we have this revelation of the gospel and the apostolic witness in the New Testament. But as 1 Corinthians 13;10 tells us this knowledge is "partial" and awaits a full revelation of God.

The day of the Lord's Return will finally be the day when the Son of Man is fully revealed to the unbelieving world and the saints, sons, and heirs of God are revealed with Him:

Luke 17:30 *According to those things, it will be in the day the Son of Man is revealed.*

Colossians 3:4 *Whenever Christ our life is revealed, then also you will be revealed with Him in glory.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it was not yet revealed what we shall be. But we know that if He is revealed, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.*

Yet, at some time before Christ is revealed, the anti-Christ (the Man of Lawlessness) and the children of the Devil are revealed (the tares, the mini anti-Christ's) and cast out of the inheritance! (2 Thessalonians 2:3-10, 1 John 2:19, Matthew chapters 13 and 25). These false heirs and claimants are removed so the true heirs may be revealed and shine forth and inherit the kingdom prepared for them!

There are those whose lives are not a revelation of Christ, but are instead a clear revelation of the works of the flesh, and they will not make it into the Kingdom of God:

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, (21) envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you beforehand, as I also said before, that the ones practicing such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Similarly, the children of the Devil are revealed by two things:

- a) a lifestyle of unrighteousness and
- b) not loving one's brother:

1 John 3:9-11 *Everyone who has been begotten of God does not sin, because His seed abides in him, and he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. (10) By this the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: Everyone not practicing righteousness is not of God; also the one not loving his brother. (11) Because this is the message which you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,*

On the other hand we can also conclude from the above verses that the true children of God are born of God, practice righteousness, and truly love one another:

1 John 4:7 *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; and everyone that loves has been born of God and knows God.*

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brothers. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

1 John 3:23-24 *And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. (24) And he who keeps His commandment dwells in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He gave to us.*

God, who is love, is perfectly revealed in those who love one another, for this is His image and likeness. Those who love one another are of God. The children of God are revealed through their love. Love proves that we are Christ's disciples and assures our heart before God that we are truly His. The revelation of the sons of God is a revelation of those who are truly righteous and truly loving.

The children of God are not revealed by some doctrinal test alone no matter how deep and thorough (though doctrine is important). For even the Devil and the demons can have right doctrine (James 2:19). The Pharisees had right doctrine, and sat in the seat of Moses, but Jesus called them children of Hell and of the Devil (Matthew 23:1-5, John 8:44)! Thus it is not our knowledge that counts, but our faith, and how our faith works itself out in love (Galatians 5:6).

Love is the lifestyle that reveals who the sons of God are, and is the spiritual sign that tells Creation who its true heirs will be. Those who love one another will take over Satan's dominion completely and reign and rule with Christ Jesus for a thousand years until the new heaven and the new earth and then be co-heirs with Him in the New Creation!

Matthew 19:28-30 *And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you, You who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29) And everyone who left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for the sake of My name, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. (30) But many first ones shall be last, and last ones first.*

Matthew 25:34 *Then the King will say to those on His right, Come, the blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Galatians 4:6-7 *And because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (7) So that you no more are a slave, but a son, and if a son, also an heir of God through Christ.*

In Matthew 25 it is those "sheep" who have a lifestyle full of loving acts (food, clothes, visiting etc) directed toward the "least of the brethren" that end up inheriting the Kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

This is not salvation by works! Rather the loving works are a sign and a true revelation of the existence of the born-of-God nature. Their love reveals that they truly are children of God (who is love) and are thus entitled to receive the inheritance!

Love does not save the "sheep", instead it is perhaps like a test of descent or parentage, or their new birth certificate that shows they belong to the family of God. Love indicates that our profession of faith is real and true. Love shows that Christ is truly within us and that we have the "mark of God" in our lives, the Holy Spirit, whose sign and fruit is love.

In this present evil age (Galatians 1:4) Creation is ruled over by dictatorial selfishness and "those who destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18) and it groans with earthquakes, disasters, famines, signs in the heavens and with wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24).

Soon however this evil cosmic regime will tumble down and be done away with! The false claimants to the throne who said "let us kill the heir so the Kingdom will be ours" will be cast out, the tares will be burned, the Devil will be cast into the lake of fire and a new heaven and a new earth will come about, one in which righteousness dwells.

The ONLY people who will be victorious and who will be able to enter this new and glorious Kingdom will be those who have already entered into the love of God. And these will be those who, by faith, have decided to love one another!

Blessings,

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