

CALLED TO BE SONS OF GOD

Communion, Lauren Loft, SCCF 11 August 2011

Let us be encouraged together to know with full confidence that we are sons of God. We're not sons of God because of the amazing things that we've done. We're sons of God because that's what God planned. That's what He decided before the foundation of the world. You are a son! I am a son!

Let's read Ephesians 1:3-6: 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.'

Let us hear what is stated in those verses. He chose us before time began; long before our parents or grandparents were born! He chose us and He planned for us to be sons. Why? It says, 'According to the good pleasure of His will'. God finds 'good pleasure' in our being His sons. He wants us to be His sons. His desire is for us. It's His kind intention towards us. It's His love towards us. He yearns for us. If you're a parent, think about how you love your children, how you yearn for your children; and so it is, even much more so with God in relation to us. It is His good pleasure that we are His sons!

John 1:12-13 says, 'But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.' To become sons, what do we need to do? This Scripture tells us that we need to receive Him and we need to believe in His name.

We don't have power to be obedient; we don't have power to do those things that are asked of us, so how are we to respond? Let us each ask

ourselves the question: what do I do, how do I respond when I hear the word of the Lord? The only thing I have to do is to not harden my heart.

In Psalms and then again in Hebrews it says, 'Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.'¹ As the word of the Lord comes to us and as we believe in His name, as we receive Him and do not harden our hearts, then there comes power in that word to be His son and to do the works of our sonship. That's why we become sons, so that we can do the works that God planned for us before time. Not only did He plan for us to be sons but He has many works for us to do, as sons.

Can you be encouraged in this way today? We've heard these truths spoken many times, but there is something new for us today! The Lord is calling us afresh to be sons. He's calling us to receive Him, to believe Him, to soften our hearts - to be His sons so that we can do the works that He has planned for us beforehand.

God has given us the right to accept His call and choose to become one of His sons. Will you respond to His call today? In doing so you will know with full confidence that you are a son of the Father!

¹ Heb 3:7,8; Psa 95:7,8