

Lesson 4: You Are His Child

See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

--1 John 3:1-2

What do you enjoy most about friendship? If you're like me, it's the give-and-take. It's a two-way street of mutual admiration. Well, when you received God as Father, you also entered into a relationship. Not only is He your Father, you are His child.

It is important that you think of yourself as His child. Until you do, it may be difficult to think of Him as your Father. Because God realized this, He placed many verses in His word to remind us of this truth. They help us to settle down and bask in the glow of such security.

The words from 1 John 3:1-2 are striking. As believers in Christ, we are His children, with the promise of fantastic things for the future. These words don't merely proclaim that you are His child. They point out the exciting way that will be confirmed when Jesus appears on the earth again. You will see you are like Him!

Dwell on this reality for a few moments. How does this help you realize you are a child of God and that He is indeed your Father? What kind of security does this give you? Will you worry less about the mortgage or rent payment, having enough food, and paying the utility bills? Will you care more about sharing your faith with others than pursuing the endless variety of entertainment and riches the world offers?

Deeper Study

1. Look up a few verses that will help you see what it means to be a child of God. In your own words, describe what these Scriptural passages mean.

1 John 3:1-2 _____

Romans 8:16 _____

Galatians 4:6 _____

2. In Part 1, I defined prayer as talking to God and letting Him speak to you. The model comes from Mark 14:36, where Jesus used “abba” in speaking to the Father. “Abba” is a familiar name for father, similar to “daddy” or “papa” in English. Do you approach the Father this way? Why or why not?

3. What does Mark 14:36 tell you about the kind of relationship you can have with your Father?

4. Look up each of the following verses. Describe what each promises about the benefits that come from being a child of God.

Romans 8:17 _____

1 Peter 1:3-5: _____

2 Peter 1:3 _____

Hebrews 4:16 _____

5. Read Matthew 5-7, which contains Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." Count the number of times that Christ refers to God as "your Father." What does this tell you about who you are and your relationship to God?
