From Slaves to Sons

Living and Thinking Like Sons of God

These are the lesson notes for the following YouTube video(s):

- Living and Thinking Like Sons of God



DIVE DEEPER
Read This Book:
Supermen

We have been made for intimacy and relationship with God.

> **John 17:3**
> *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

> **James 1:21-22 (KJV)**
> *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*

> **Romans 12:2 (NIV)**
> *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

If we have a wrong image of who God is and what God is like, it's highly likely that we have SLAVE thinking instead of SON thinking.

A **Slave** has a relationship with a **MASTER.**
A **Son** has a relationship with a **FATHER.**

> **Romans 8:15**
> *The Spirit you received does not make you **slaves**, so that you live in **fear** again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption** to **sonship**. And by him we cry, **"Abba, Father**!" [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are **God's children**. [17] Now if we are children, then we are **heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may **also share in his glory**.*

Slaves relate to fear and are distant from their masters; Sons have a close relationship with their father. They are heirs.

> **1 John 4:17-18**
> *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment [punishment]. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

We have received a spirit of adoption as God's children. He has adopted us as his His own.

> **Ephesians 1:5**
> *having **predestined** us to **adoption as sons by Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

WERE YOU BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING? SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!
EMAIL US: TESTIMONIES@FRONTRUNNERS.COM

We are His children, so we are also heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:29
*For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***

1 Corinthians 2:12
*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that **have been freely given to us by God**.*

Our relationship is not based on who deserves what, but on grace.

Galatians 4:1-7
*Now I say that as long as an heir is underage, **he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate.** [2] The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. [3] So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. [4] **But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law**, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, **that we might receive the children as sons.** [6] And because **you are sons,** God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" [7] **Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.***

Hagar and Sarah

Galatians 4:21-31
[21] Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? [22] For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. [23] His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise. [24] These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. [25] Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. [26] But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. [27] For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband." [28] Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. [29] At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. [30] But what does Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." [31] Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

What did Paul say here? As long as the heir (son or daughter, the child) is still immature, still a child, they're **no different to a slave** even though they own everything. They're subject to guardians and administrators until the time designated by the father. There's a time that the father says – *now* you are a full owner 100%. Likewise also when we were young children, we were subject, **as slaves**, to the spiritual forces of the world (sin). Now, through Jesus, we have been **adopted as children**, so we have become **sons** and daughters of God the Father. By the Spirit of God we say "Abba Father". "*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are **God's children**.*" (Romans 8:16). We're no **longer slaves, but sons and daughters,** and, as such, we are also heirs. **We are children of the free woman**.

Being an heir is **all about grace**. You don't receive an inheritance because you *earned* it, but because you're AN HEIR. When someone dies their *Last Will and Testament* is read out, telling you what you have inherited. *This* is our Testament.

Slaves and Sons Compared

Jesus gave very important teaching about slaves and sons in Luke 15. We often call the story the story of the prodigal son or the lost son, but it's actually about two sons, which son was really lost? At the end of the story, the younger son is back in the father's house, but the elder son was still outside.

Luke 15:11-31 (NIV)

*Jesus continued: **"There was a man who had two sons.** 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no **longer worthy to be called your son;** make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; 22 Then the Lord said to his servants, **'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For** this, **son of mine**, was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 **"The older brother became angry and refused to go in.** So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, **'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.** 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 **"'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.** 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"*

We call it the story of the Prodigal Son, the lost son, but it's really about two lost sons. The father had two sons and both of them were lost.

1. Prodigal sons: people from the world or people who had walked away from the father and came back – **act as if they're not worthy – I am not worthy, I don't deserve, etc.**
2. The son who never left the father's house, but **was religious and acted as if he was superior**, all while not doing anything with what he had received (own works).
3. The other extreme is also possible also true – people who've never left the father's house but **act as slaves because they have a wrong image of God**.

Slaves never reach their full potential. Slaves never enter into their calling.

Slaves have no right to an inheritance and live on the minimum possible.
Sons receive and make use of their entire inheritance.

We don't need a slave mentality; we need a son identity.

It's easier to get people to become children of God, than to get them to *think* and *live* as children of God.

01

Sons	Slaves
Work **from** love and acceptance	Work **towards** love and acceptance

We sometimes think that the more we do a certain thing, behave in a certain way, or don't do something else, then God will love us more, accept us more or value us more.

That's how slaves and servants think. They try to work *towards* something. **Sons already know that they're loved and accepted by the Father. They work *from* that position and from identity. Many Christians try to earn things from God: salvation, their healing, deliverance.** As long as we try to earn what God gave us by grace, we're missing the whole point. God has already done it.

How are you living and thinking?

- Righteousness
- Forgiveness
- Holiness
- Healing
- Blessing
- Provision
- Deliverance
- Calling

02

Sons	Slaves
Want to spend time with their father	Don't want to spend time with their master

BOTH of the lost sons found it **hard to join the feast with the father because they BOTH had slave thinking.** They found it hard to have an intimate, personal relationship with the father.

Both had wrong thinking, slave thinking. I want to spend time with my Father because He loves me and I love Him and I obey because of love and grace. I know God wants to bless me because of his love, faithfulness and grace.

Slaves don't like spending time with their master, but sons love to spend time with their fathers.

Slaves don't just spend time with their Master, enjoying their relationship and having fun. Slaves only go to their masters for very important decisions.

03

Sons	Slaves
Know their father personally	Don't know their master personally

Do you feel that God is close to you or far away? Many people obey God, but don't have any close relationship with Him. Work comes easy to them, relationship is difficult. Those are characteristics of a slave. It's that relationship that you need to pursue and build up.

You get to know God by sharing your life with Him, by pulling Him into *everything* you do. Not just what you do on Sundays.

04

Sons	Slaves
Work because they **want** to	Work because they **have** to

Take a family company, for example. A son is happy to work in His father's company.

Ephesians 2:19
Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

1 Timothy 3:15
but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

A son is happy to work in his father's house. If you do your tasks without feeling good whilst doing them, you're acting like an older son/slave. Sons are automatically zealous for their father's house.

John 2:16-17
*And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" [17] Then His disciples remembered that it was written, **"Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."***

Paul saw himself as the Father's slave. He was referring here to a statute under the law, where a slave could, of their own will, choose to serve his master for the rest of his life.

Exodus 21:5-6
*But if the servant plainly **says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' [6] then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.***

Romans 1:1
*Paul, **a bondservant of Jesus C**hrist, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*

05

Sons	Slaves
Willingly receive things from their father	Don't receive things willingly from their master

Galatians 4:1
Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is ***master of all,***

An adult son is heir of and master over everything.

Romans 8:3
He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him ***also freely give us all things?***

1 Timothy 6:17-19
Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain ***riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*** *18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, [19] storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

People who have slave thinking (no grace) find it hard to believe that God just wants to bless them and give things to them.

- **We encourage people to sow, but rip them apart when they reap a harvest from their seed.**
- **We encourage people to humble themselves, but rip them apart when God raises them up.**
- **We encourage people to put the Kingdom first, but judge them when God gives them everything when they do so.**
- **We encourage people to bring offerings for the Gospel, but slag them off when God gives them back, in this age, a hundred times what they sowed.**

John 13:5-6
After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. [6] Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

People with slave thinking find it hard to receive. They don't understand grace (1 Corinthians 2:12) because they don't think that they deserve it, and they think they have to earn it. The thing is grace is you getting what you didn't earn and it's the same for both sons.

06

Sons	Slaves
Live on what their father provides	Depend on their own effort and try to earn provision

Sons do things with what the Father has provided instead of in their own strength. God is your source, even in your job. God provides! (Philippians 4:19). You live off of what God gives you. That doesn't mean that you don't do anything. You actually work really hard, even for your earthly boss, but you do it from a place of God's provision. God gave you the job. If you lose it, just trust God for something else.

Colossians 3:22-24

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. [23] And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

07

Sons	Slaves
Have their father's authority	Leave the decisions to their master

Romans 5:17

*For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive **abundance of grace** and of **the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the** One, Jesus Christ.*

Sons can make decisions in the Father's name. The first thing the younger lost son got back was a ring on his finger. **That was a sign of authority, that he could make decisions in his father's name. Slaves leave all the decisions and use of authority to their masters.**

Many people say, "If it's God's will..." and then they leave it up to God. That's slave thinking. A son, however, knows and carries out the Father's will.

- I have authority.
- I can do things, make decisions, take authority in the Father's name.
- I know God's will, by His Word and His Spirit
- and now I need to do something.

08

Sons	Slaves
Don't doubt their father's love when He corrects them	Doubt their master's love and faithfulness

Hebrews 12:5-11

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; [6] For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." [7] If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? [8] But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. [9] Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? [10] For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. [11] Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

WERE YOU BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING? SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!
EMAIL US: TESTIMONIES@FRONTRUNNERS.COM

Proverbs 3:11
My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction;

Sons don't doubt their father's love when He corrects them. A father corrects his son's behavior without attacking his identity.

How does God correct/discipline us?

- By His Word (2 Timothy 3:16)
- By His Spirit (John 14 and John 16).
- By circumstances; allowing difficult circumstances. Israel in the desert. At times, they didn't have any food or water. He was testing them to see if they would trust Him. God always gave them what they needed. Jesus was cited as an example (Hebrews 12:1-4) He was spat upon, shouted down, judged, etc.

09

Sons	Slaves
Operate from their heart and identity	Find it hard to operate from the Father's heart. They want rules

Many people find it hard when we talk about no longer living under the law. They want rules.

Slaves work with rules; sons work from the Father's heart.

Sons in the family business aren't counting their holiday days, working hours or salary requirements. **Sons work from their hearts, not from rules.**

Galatians 3:23
*But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. [24] **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. [25] But after faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor**. [26] For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. [27] **For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** [28] There is neither **Jew** nor **Greek**, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- We live by the Spirit, have the fruit of the spirit, and are led by the spirit.
- We're driven by love. We don't live under law and rules.
- Legalism and religion is detestable

Colossians 2:16-17
So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, [17] which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

WERE YOU BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING? SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY!
EMAIL US: TESTIMONIES@FRONTRUNNERS.COM

The Law of Christ is the law of love.

Galatians 6:1-2
Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. [2] ***Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.***

1 Corinthians 9:21
to those who are without law, ***as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;***

Love your neighbor as yourself. The love of God has been poured out in our hearts.

10

Sons	Slaves
Know their father's heart and know that it is good	Are unsure of their master's motives

Fathers ask their sons to do things, to improve their sons.
A slave owner asks things of their slaves to improve things for themselves.

The goodness of God leads to repentance.

Hebrews 11:6
"But without faith it is impossible to please God. for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Proverbs 3:9-10
Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; [10] *so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

Malachi 3:10-11
Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. [11] *"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts;*

Luke 6:38
Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

2 Corinthians 9:6
But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Sons know deep down that the Father is good and nothing but good.

Matthew 7:11
If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

James 1:17
Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

3 John 1:2
*Beloved, I pray that you **may prosper in all things** and **be in health**, just as your soul prospers.*

Psalm 100:5
For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

John 10:10
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

I don't doubt the Father's motives. I obey Him because I know He isn't a thief. He isn't out to make things worse for me, steal my joy or peace or whatever.

What's more, if I'm not leaving in joy and peace, I'm often not in the Father's will because He causes me to lie down and leads me in green pastures.

Recap

Sons	Slaves
Work **from** love and acceptance	Work **towards** love and acceptance
Want to spend time with their father	Don't want to spend time with their master
Know their father personally	Don't know their master personally.
Work because they **want** to	Work because they **have** to.
Willingly receive things from the father	Don't receive things willingly from their master
Have the father's authority	Leave the decision-making to the master
Don't doubt their father's love when He corrects them.	Doubt their master's love and faithfulness
Operate from their heart and identity	Find it hard to operate from the father's heart. They want rules
Live on what their father provides	Depend on their own effort and try to earn provision
Know the father's heart and know that the father is good.	Are unsure of their master's motives.