

Children Of God

Romans 8:14-23

1

Children Of God

There are so many contradictory teachings

Just who is a child of God?

2

The Denominational View

- Completely open
 - “Attend the church of your choice”
 - “All roads lead to heaven”

3

Within The Church

- Somewhat more restricted
 - “Certainly there are good people everywhere”

4

These Teachings Are...

- In good faith – but ignorant
- Refusal to study an opinion
- Knowing propagation of false doctrine

5

Is the Bible clear on the relationship between God and Man?

6

Biblical Descriptions

- Look for descriptions of family relationships

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Biblical Descriptions

- “Family” words:
 - Child
 - Children
 - Son(s)
 - Daughter(s)
 - Father

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Biblical Descriptions

- Frequency:

– child =	191
– children =	1,753
– son =	2,348
– sons =	1,143
– daughter =	310
– daughters =	250
– father =	949
Total =	6,944

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Narrow The Search

- We’re really looking for a definition of a relationship
- Let’s use phrases that speak of the relationship God has with Man

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Relationship Phrases

- Child of God
- Children of God
- Son of God
- Sons of God
- Daughter of God
- Daughters of God
- Father (with a capital “F”)

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Relationship Phrases

- Frequency:

– Child of God =	0
– Children of God =	10
– Son of God =	45
– Sons of God =	10
– Daughter of God =	0
– Daughters of God =	0
– Father =	265
Total =	330

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Final Elimination

- “Son of God” is used only in the New Testament and refers to Jesus’ relationship with God in 44 instances and Adam’s relationship with God in the other one.

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Final Elimination

- Frequency:
 - Children of God = 10
 - Sons of God = 10
 - Father = 265
 - Total = 285

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“Father”

- This is the most frequently used term
- Only seven instances in the Old Testament and one of those is a prophecy of Jesus Christ

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“Father”

- Psalms 89:26
- Isaiah 9:6 (eliminated)
- Isaiah 63:16 (x2)
- Isaiah 64:8
- Jeremiah 3:4
- Jeremiah 3:19

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“Father”

- The people of Israel are to call God “Father”
 - Apparently understood and accepted by them

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“Father”

- Reference is made only to the existence of this relationship between God and the nation of Israel

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“Father”

- The rest of the occurrences (258) are in the New Testament with 184 of them before the establishment of the church in Acts 2

– Matthew 18:10-14

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“Father”

- Jesus said that He was sent to preach to the “house of Israel” only

– Matthew 10:5-7

– Matthew 15:22-28

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“Father”

- Jesus brought the message of the father/child relationship to the household of Israel but they didn't understand

– John 8:41-44

– John 5:17:18

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“Father”

- A transition was occurring

– Acts 1:7-8

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“Father”

- The definition of the “family” of God was expanding

– Ephesians 2:13-18

– Ephesians 4:4-6

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“Father”

- Something is now required of those who wish to be in this “expanded” family

– I John 2:22-25

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“Father”

- The relationship of “Father” was begun in the Old Testament and expanded by the teachings of the New Testament
- Always between God and His chosen people

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“Sons Of God”

- This phrase is used ten times in the Bible
- Five in the Old Testament and five in the New Testament

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“Sons Of God”

- Old Testament references are to heavenly beings
- See Job 1:6
- Eliminate: Genesis 6:2,4; Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:7

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“Sons Of God”

- One of the New Testament references is to a heavenly being
- Luke 20:34-36

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“Sons Of God”

- “Led by the Spirit of God”
- Galatians 3:21-29
- All New Testament usages refer to people who have chosen to place themselves in a special relationship with God

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“Children Of God”

- Used ten times in the Bible, all in the New Testament
- I John 3:1-2
- I John 3:7-10
- Philippians 2:14-15
- Romans 9:1-8

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“Children Of God”

■ Romans 9:1-8

- Those who had been able to call God “Father” now could not
- Those who had not been able to call God “Father” now could

■ Romans 9:25-26

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Putting It All Together

■ Who could call God “Father”?

- In the Old Testament – the household of Israel
- Through Acts 2 – still the household of Israel
- After Acts 2 – those who are “called” (Ephesians 4:4), have “confessed” (I John 2:23), and who “abide” (I John 2:24)

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Putting It All Together

■ “Sons of God” used only in the New Testament (for our purposes)

- “Led by the Spirit of God” (Romans 8:14)
- Have “faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26)
- “Baptized into Christ” (Galatians 3:27)

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Putting It All Together

■ “Children of God” used only in the New Testament

- “Begotten of God” (I John 3:9)

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Putting It All Together

■ John 1:9-17

- “to them gave he the right to become children of God” (verse 12)

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Putting It All Together

■ The household of Israel was given the right to maintain their relationship with God

- John 15:1-6
- They rejected it

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Putting It All Together

- Those who were not previously children of God were given the opportunity to become so

– Romans 11:11-24

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Putting It All Together

- All children of God are adopted, none are “natural” children

– Galatians 4:3-9

– Ephesians 1:3-5

– Romans 9:3-5

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Conclusion

- The qualifications required to become a child of God are the same as those required to become a Christian

– “Led by the Spirit of God”, “faith in Christ Jesus”, “baptized into Christ”, “called”, “confessed”, “abide”

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“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8
- Believe in that Word
 - Romans 10:11
- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - I John 4:15
- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - Acts 2:38