

# Remembering Who We Are

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*“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” ~ Romans 8:19*

**A**s we go through the normal activities of life, we often lose sight of who we really are, and what we are actually doing. It is so easy to do. The pressures of daily circumstances can be quite demanding at times. They constantly draw us into a view of life that is Adamic.

The view of life in Adam is an empty one. It is a vain and endless cycle of burden, stress, and meaningless activities – a hollow shell of worthless existence – and since this was the circumstances of our former condition, it is easy for us to forget and fall back into our old ways of thinking. When we do so, our life too can *appear* to be futile and pointless – buried under the ruins of unimportant insignificance.

Listen to the wisdom of Solomon so aptly describing this Adamic view of life:

*“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing” (Ecclesiastes 1:2-8).*

Yet there is another view of life: it is the divine one, the one that is real. It is the view where God sees things the way that they *really* are, not the way that they *appear* to be.

God is busy at work in the lives of believers – *“For we are His workmanship”* (Ephesians 2:10).

Now the world around us does not know this. They do not really know who we are. They see us as if we were just like them. They view us as mere mortals, their fellow sons of men; but we are not mere mortals. We are in fact sons of God. This is our identity in the Lord Jesus Christ. We share in His relationship with the Father – that of sons.

Think of it! Our true *identity* is that of a son of God! We are sons of the Creator of the universe, the Ruler of heaven and earth. What an exalted position we have! It is all because of Him. He is the Father, we are His sons.

Because we are His children, we are also His *heirs*.

*“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together”* (Romans 8:17).

God’s heirs – think of it! What an amazing thing. We could never have dreamed up such a thing in our wildest imaginations. If it were not the record of Scripture itself we must surely oppose it as pure blasphemy.

Still, it is true. We are the heirs of God. We are inheritors to all that God possesses, and He owns it all!

*“For the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof”* (I Corinthians 10:26).

We will not take full possession of all of our inheritance until the resurrection. The earth and its fullness are currently sublet to the sons of Adam while God has placed Himself in Royal Exile; but this will all change one day.

We often forget as we labor through our days that we are sons of the Father, and heirs of all things. We sometimes live in the circumstances as defeated sons of Adam. This is a denial of our true identity, and when we do so, we live in falsehood and hypocrisy. We deny, in the daily details of our lives, whom God has actually made us in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We currently live in *“this present evil world;”* but we have a divine calling upon our lives. We are to walk here as God’s own sons – shining as lights. And doing so changes our approach and outlook upon the many diverse details of earthly life.

*“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, **the sons of God**, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain”* (Philippians 2:14-16).

Let us notice some of the particulars of this passage.

We are identified here as **“the sons of God.”**

This is our approach to life. This is who we are. This is our God-given reality. This is where we live.

We are the sons of God in **“the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.”**

The details of life will not be easy, because we are in hostile surroundings. We are the sons of the Exiled King.

We are **“among”** them to **“shine as lights in the world.”**

We are not seen by those around us for who we really are. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder, side-by-side **“among”** them. As sons, we are providing the light for this dark domain. The light is not so that we may illuminate ourselves; it is that we may illuminate our way to walk, thus providing illumination upon the Savior for those **“among”** whom we live.

We are **“holding forth the word of life.”**

The way that we enlighten our path and those **“around”** us is by holding forth **“the word of life.”** We hold the word in front of us. As David wrote, **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”** (Psalms 119:105). As we keep the truth of God’s word ever before our eyes, throughout the course of our day, we are able to **see** how to walk as sons.

We will be able to **“rejoice in the day of Christ.”**

The culmination of our daily walking in the light of our Father will not be fully realized until **“the day of Christ.”** Then we will be able to fully rejoice in our sojourn here.

Our lives will not have been **“run in vain.”**

What will be the reason for our **“rejoicing in the day of Christ?”** That our race and labor was not in vain! We are saved from the vanity of the sons of Adam – living daily in our son-ship position in Christ.

Now, having looked through this passage briefly, we will now return to the first phrase. We deliberately passed over it. We did so because we believe that in it lies the very key to the passage. Look at how it begins:

**“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be ...”**

All that Paul says afterward is preceded by what it is that we actually **do**. We are instructed by Paul to **“do all things without murmurings and disputings.”** This is the attitude and approach that we are to have regarding the circumstances of life, as sons of the Father.

Here is what we must ever keep “*holding forth*” before our eyes: *we are* the sons of God. Those around us are unaware of this astonishing fact. We did not have a royal motorcade escorting us to our workplace this morning. Those who were in the elevator with us this afternoon were unaware that we co-own the universe. We were not ushered to the front of the checkout line this evening at the grocery store. Our neighbors about us know nothing of our true identity. Even if we tell them, they would not understand. It is hidden from their eyes.

Those who are irritated and confused, troubled and depressed from the vanity of being a descendant of Adam will be short with us. In their frustration of the endless cycle of vanity they will often be hurtful, mean, and vindictive; but none of this is true of who we are. We have a life full of meaning and purpose, joy and peace, because we are a descendant of the one true and living God.

We are the people of hope on the planet. We have as our birthright as the sons of God the blessed fruit of His Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Yet when we join the descendants of Adam in their misery-ways, we deny all that God has made us – the real us. We need to remember to walk through this dark world as the “*children of light.*”

“*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light**: for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth*” (Ephesians 5:8-9).

“*Ye are all **the children of light**, and **the children of the day**: we are not of the night, nor of darkness*” (I Thessalonians 5:5).

We do not walk in the darkness. We walk in the light of all that we have and are in Christ! Then to murmur and dispute is in all reality not to believe these truths. Thus walking in this light of who we are is what it means to walk in His Spirit – just to allow Him to live His life (who we really are) in us. After teaching us the fruit of the Spirit, Paul says:

“*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit*” (Galatians 5:25).

Living the fruit of His Spirit is walking in the Spirit. It is not an *effort* – *trying* to work up this fruit in our lives. Instead it is *His FRUIT* – the byproduct of *His LIFE* flowing through us. It is His produce.

This brings us back to our text.

“*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God*” (Romans 8:19).

Let us notice some of the particulars of this passage.

*We are not yet manifest as the sons of God.*

The world does not know who we are. Our son-ship is completely hidden from them at this time.

*One day we shall be made manifest.*

In the resurrection God will reveal to all of creation who His sons are. This will be a glorious coronation day.

*The rest of creation is awaiting this manifestation.*

The whole creation groans and is eagerly awaiting redemption. They do not know about, nor understand this deliverance, but it is to be found in our *future* manifestation. What a glorious day this fulfillment will be for *all* of creation.

Until our manifestation is made, the rest of God's creation does not know who we are. As we walk through the circumstances of our days, they will *not* reflect our true identity. In fact, we shall not be exempt from all the apparent vanities of this dark-land. We shall have our share of the dark-side: suffering, pain, discouragement, difficulties, weariness, pressure, and the like; but we are not defined by their details. Although we are beckoned to the contrary on every side, we have a higher life – the high-life from above, from the light-land. We are called to walk in this radiant light.

As we go through the various details of this earthly life, let us not forget who we really are. Let us remember our divine calling and position as God's own sons. Let that be our day-by-day, moment-by-moment focus.

Let us hold forth the word of life, so that we can clearly see who we are, and how we are to walk as honorable heirs of all creation.

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