

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”

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These Teachings Are...

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

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

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Biblical Descriptions

- Look for descriptions of family relationships
- “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
- Reference is made to the existence of this relationship only between God and the nation of Israel
 - Not to any other people (i.e. – Gentiles)

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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
- 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
- **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