

## Children Of God

Romans 8:14-23

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## 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”

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## 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
<b>Total =</b>	<b>6,944</b>

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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
<b>Total =</b>	<b>330</b>

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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

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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
  - “born of God” (I John 3:9)

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## Putting It All Together

- John 1:9-17
  - “he gave 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?”

Acts 16:30

- 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