

BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD

Int.

1. Aim: to show what we can become as a child of God, with God's help.
2. The greatest reality that exists in the universe is God !
 - a. God is a spirit - Jn. 4:24
 - b. God is not a physical being but a spiritual being
 - (1) Lk. 24:39 "**for a spirit hath not flesh and bones,**"
 - (2) He has knowledge and emotions and - experiences love, hate, wrath
3. The greatest reality in the earth under God, is **MAN !**
 - a. Man is next to God as far as this world is concerned
 - b. Man is the greatest being in the world
4. The greatest quality in man is not his muscular strength, its not his intellectual power, but it is his SPIRIT.
 - a. Something that God breathed into Him.
 - b. Man is made in the image of God. He has a living Soul.
 - c. Gen. 2:7 "**And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**"
 - d. Since man is spirit...

Discussion

I. WHAT IS THE GREATEST THING IN MAN'S SPIRIT ?

- A. It is his potentiality - it is what he can become

B. There is no limit to what man can become under God's blessings and leadership

1. Jesus is proof of that fact

a. He called himself "son of man" more than anything else -

(1) This implies that he was man.

(2) He is showing what man is really made to do and what man could become, under God.

b. During the temptation Satan said **"If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread."** Jesus answered. **"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** Matt. 4:3-4

(1) He was there in the temptation as man.

(2) He was fighting man's battle in that temptation, not demonstrating the mere deity and power of God.

2. There is no known limit to what man can become under God.

3. We can all be greater and do more if we try !

C. The New Testament emphasizes over and over that man has potential and that he was made for great things.

1. Mk. 1:16-17 "...**make you to become fishers of men...**"

2. Jn. 1:11-12 "...**power to become the sons of God...**"

a. This is the greatest thing about man - It is what he can become !

b. Without God we can become nothing ! Jer. 10:23 **"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."**

D. The concept of BECOME or BECOMING is often expressed in the N.T.

1. Rom. 12:1-2 **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

- a. We can deny the love of this world and refuse to be conformed to this world.
- b. We can be transformed by the renewing of our mind.
- c. The main thing here is to BECOME what I am not.
- d. Try to GROW and IMPROVE ! Become different by being transformed.
- e. Transformed - "to change into another form — the obligation being to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct - - - it lays stress on the inward change." V.E.D.N.T. P. 148
- f. Develop the full Christian capacity, the full spiritual Christian capacity of which you are capable !!

2. [Matt. 6:33](#)

- a. What is the main thing? Seek first the kingdom
- b. Seek what about the kingdom?
 - (1) Seek to be a member of it.
 - (2) Seek to grow into a worthiness to be a member of it
- c. Become what you are capable of becoming under God.
- d. **"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:"** John 1:12

3. 1 Jn. 3:2-3 **“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”**

- a. We are children of God now - we do not have to wait until we are in heaven.
- b. We are children of God here in this world.
- c. Rom. 8:17 - children - then heirs
- d. It doth not appear what we shall be = possibilities, potentiality - what we can become.
- e. But we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
- f. Hope = motivating power
- g. If you are children of God now, then act like children of God. What is it they do and what is it they don't do? What's unique or peculiar about being children of God? What are the children of God like ?

II. SIX THINGS THAT CHILDREN OF GOD SHOULD DO.

As children of God here are some six things you should do to act like God's child! These things will help you to BECOME all that God wants you to become !

A. **Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts** - Tit. 2:12

1. How was God's Son - God's child - I'm a joint-heir along with him if I am a real Christian — what did he do ?
2. Heb. 4:15 - He had heavenly standards for his ethics and for his morals.
3. That's what we must do to act like God's child.

B. **Improve my personality**

1. I'm the child of God - He is my Father - He's adopted me into his family
2. I want to live consistent with his laws
3. The greatest investment of time any person can make is to improve himself - it doesn't matter much along what line as long as it is decent and honest - if you improve yourself.
4. Phil. 3:12-17 - Paul wanted to improve himself
5. Improve your speech, voice, manners, courtesy, - - people will not object to however good you are, as long as you are not self-righteous. So improve your humility.
6. Improve your manners, strengths, cheerfulness, appearance
7. Try to correct the faults
8. Improving your personality will improve your marriage - things that break up marriages are crudities in people's character and life. It is lack of refinement and generosity and humility and love which often ruins marriages. Be the kind of person that it will be pleasant to live with !
9. Becoming a child of God involves a constant improving of our personality.

C. **IMITATE CHRIST** - - to become a child of God we must imitate Christ

1. 1 Pet. 2:21-23 **"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"**

2. Imitate = be Christ-like
3. We can't have all of his power, we can not have his perfection - but we can strive for it.
4. Jesus calls on us to do it.
5. Matt. 5:48
6. Eph. 4:12-13
7. Let Jesus be your model - Matt. 7:12

D. **Look beyond the visible and temporal**

1. II Cor. 4:17-18 **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."**
2. Spiritual - the invisible thing in your body is your spirit - that part of you doesn't go into a coffin or grave - it does not go to a cemetery - it returns to God who gave that spiritual part.
3. Look not at things seen - why?
 - a. They are temporal - temporary - only last a short while
 - b. Things not seen - spiritual things are eternal
4. II Cor. 5:1 **"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."**

E. **Walk by the spirit**

1. Gal. 5:16 - 22-23
2. What does walking by the spirit mean?
3. It's looking on the important side of each question.
4. Spirit is above matter - the spiritual part is immortal - it does not die. It is more important than the physical !
5. The N.T. encourages us to develop spiritual values for they are eternal.
6. We can keep growing, with God's help.

F. **Endure until the end**

1. Jas. 5:11 **"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."**
2. Matt. 10:22 **"And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."**
3. He warns against the persecution and suffering and that the enemies will arise against you from your own family - fathers will hate their children - children will betray their fathers and mothers they'll give you up - but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.
4. Enduring means growing in the grace - I I Pet. 3:18
5. God wants his people to be an extra-ordinary people - he wants a people of his own possession - an elect race - a royal priesthood - a holy nation.
6. By enduring till the end we will show forth, demonstrate to the world what a real Godly person is like.

7. People today cannot see Christ - their only chance is to see some human being that does know what a Christian is and is living up to it - the influence of such people can reach far !!

Conclusion

1. How great can you be under God? Nobody knows !
2. It cost's something ! But it's rewards exceed all cost.
3. We've Got to learn to deny our self and take up our cross and follow Christ Jesus
4. When we do, he changes and improves and strengthens us !
5. Becoming a child of God and becoming the very best child of God is what Christianity is all about.
6. The greatest reality ...
 - (1) in the universe is God!
 - (2) in the earth under God is man
 - (a) The greatest quality in man is his spirit
 - (b) The greatest thing about man's spirit is its potentiality - what it can become with God's help
7. With God's help we can...
 - a. Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts
 - b. Improve your personality
 - c. Imitate Christ
 - d. Look beyond the visible and look to the eternal
 - e. Walk by the spirit
 - f. Endure till the end

8. Christianity is a thing of perfection
 - a. A God of love and perfection is the author of it
 - b. Been demonstrated by the greatest, and most perfect and beautiful life ever lived - the life of Jesus Christ - a sinless life
 - c. We can become a child of God - and live and learn to live like a child of God. If we will then we can live forever with God and Christ in the glorious world to come!
9. It pays to be a Christian.
10. Stick with the Lord and he will stick with you now and forever !

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