

Sons instead of sinners

by

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“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.”
1 Joh 3:1-10

Adam and Eve were sons of God, as righteous and sinless as God. They were the image of God and in their spirit they looked like God. When Adam sinned, he got a new identity. Righteousness turned into sin, life turned into death, a son of God turned into a sinner. Adam was now separated from God, he no longer had any fellowship with God, his spirit had moved from life to death. From now on he was led by his mind instead of his spirit. His spirit, soul and body were infected with death. His new father was the devil and from now on he was subject to the law of sin and death. He was now chained to sin. The prison he was in was the prison of sin, spiritual death. He could not set himself free by his own efforts. There was no way out. Through Adam the sin virus and death came to all people and everyone is in the same prison.

God sent Jesus, the last Adam. He took Adam’s place and took his guilt and sin upon himself. When Jesus died on the cross he got a new identity. He identified with our sin. He, the Righteous One, became sin. Jesus, who knew no sin was made sin for us, so that in Christ Jesus we might become the righteousness of God, 2 Cor 5:21. Jesus became a sinner (with our sins) and put on our sin so that we could become sons of God again. He took Adam’s death upon himself, and his spirit, soul and body died just like the first Adam. When God raised Jesus from the dead and made his spirit, soul and body alive again, he said: *“You are my son; today I have become your father.”* Heb 1:5. Jesus was made alive in the Spirit, 1 Pet 3:18. God justified him in the Spirit, 1 Tim 3:16, and raised him from the dead. The Son became sin and then became a Son again. The same

happens to us sinners, non-sons, as soon as we believe in Jesus. We are justified and made alive in the Spirit. Our spirit, which was dead and separated from God, is made new. We become as innocent, pure and holy again as Adam was before the Fall. Born-again Christians are no longer sinners but rather sons of God, born of God. Jesus was the firstborn from among the dead. Just as Jesus was made alive and became a Son again, we too are made alive and become sons of God again.

We were sinners, but were justified in the Spirit and are now the righteousness of God. We are just as righteous as Jesus. He became our righteousness. *“As he is, so are we”*, 1 Joh 4:17. In the spirit we look just like Jesus.

If a Christian sins, they stumble over their flesh, since our flesh is not yet redeemed, nor is our soul (mind, feelings, will). They need to be renewed by God’s word – see Jms 1:21 and Rom 12:2.

If someone does not renew their mind with God’s word, they will always walk in the flesh although their spirit has become new. Either the renewed soul joins forces with the spirit and will dominate the flesh, or the soul remains under the dominion of the flesh and we sin. Our born-again spirit cannot sin, John says. If the spirit is in command, sin can no longer rule over us. Sin then has no more power or authority over us.

Read Romans chapters 6 and 8. Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death, and the law of the spirit of life is now at work in us. This new law is stronger than the law of sin. We do not have a spirit of slavery but a spirit of sonship. We were slaves to sin, were set free from it and are now servants of righteousness, sons of God who do the will of their Father in heaven. *“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin,”* Rom 6:6.

We have a new identity. We are citizens of heaven, new creations, created in the image of Jesus. We have a new spirit, a new spiritual DNA. Feed yourself with God’s word, get your thoughts in line with God’s word and your flesh will be less and less able to cause you to stumble.

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