

# “Sonship” Situation

Shortly after declaring “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32) there is a discussion in John 8:33-59 concerning “true disciples.” Are you a true disciple? The discussion centers on “*sonship*.” There are two perspectives given: that of the Jews and that of Jesus. Jesus first engages the dialog with people in the crowd and then the Jewish leaders enter the discussion.



Who prayed for Saul that he might receive his sight?

Bonus: Who blinded Saul and what name did Saul go by later in life?

The theme of “*sonship*” is pursued along two very different perspectives and on two different levels. Just whose sons are these Jews and whose Son is Jesus? On the level of Jewish “*sonship*,” the Jews have one perspective while Jesus presents a different one; then, on the level of the *Sonship* of Jesus, there are two points of view...the earthly concept of the Jews and the reality of an eternal Being.

Jewish pride shows through concerning freedom; “we have never been in bondage to anyone” (33). Jesus responds by indicating that they do need freedom—“whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (34). This is still true today. They are not sons, no matter their attachment to Abraham. “Sonship” is about character rather than lineage. A son bears a family resemblance to his father (38). The Jews do not have Abraham’s character. True spiritual “sonship” is defined by Jesus. So the Jews say, so if you’re talking about spiritual sonship; “we have one Father—God” (41). Jesus explains that they do not accept Him, the true Son of God, therefore, not God, but Satan is their father (42-44). By dishonoring the Father’s Son they do not know the Father. The Jews say of Jesus, “You are a Samaritan and have a demon” (48).

Jesus states the real issue at hand: “I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death” (50-51). Have you kept His word?

God seeks the glory of His Son. The one who seeks the glory of the Son is our judge. Where does that put a person who does not seek the glory of Jesus? We read about “hearing” and then about “keeping.” The alternative to “keeping the words of Jesus” is death. A separation from God. Being a Christian is inseparable from obeying Jesus.

Jesus declares, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58), and He is connecting with Exodus 3:14. Jesus declares Himself to be God, the One who spoke to the Hebrews. Jesus eliminates all possibility of misunderstanding. Every “I AM” passage highlights our deep and abiding need for Jesus in our life (see John 4:26; 6:20, 35, 41, 48, 51; 8:12, 58; 10:9, 11; 15:1). He declares that true discipleship is a matter of “*sonship*.” If you are not a Christian today, then your “*sonship*” is questionable. Jesus said “Do not be unbelieving, but believing” (John 20:27). Bible belief is always active. He that believes and is baptized will be saved. Please, seriously consider this “*sonship*” situation and make your life right today.

**To all our visitors:** *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** 2nd Sunday...

**NMCCH:** Spray & Wash and Bar Bath Soap (pick up **April 6, 2019**)

**Friday Bible Study:** from 7 to 8 PM (**3/15**).

**Farewell Breakfast:** at 8AM, for Chuck & Doris Conrad at Patsy’s Café on Wednesday (**3/20**). Bible classes meet there first...

**VBS Meeting:** Sunday (**3/24**) after AM services... anticipation is making us wait!

**Singing:** at Morton St, Tuesday (**3/26**) at 7PM