

CS1. The Call to Sonship

I. God has an Eternal Purpose

1. God has placed Man on the Earth for a Purpose

- *Eph 3:11* according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- A purpose is the reason something exists, what it was made for
- God's purpose is an eternal purpose
- God always works intentionally and with a purpose in mind
- All success in life involves a Game-plan...an end point that everything is focussed upon
- God has a Game-plan...an Eternal Kingdom Purpose
- God will complete what he has begun

2. Father's Eternal Purpose is a Family of Sons Extending His Rule over Creation

- *Psa 8:4* What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?
- *Psa 8:5* For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have **crowned him with glory and honour.**
- *Psa 8:6* You have **made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;** You have put all things under his feet. **God created us for dominion over the world that he created**
 - "Dominion"....to rule over, to reign, to govern
- **God retains sovereignty over the earth but has appointed man to manage as His representative**
- Man was created for an intimate relationship as a son with his Father ruling over all of creation
 - *Psa 115:16* The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.
 - God has given man both responsibility and authority and a mandate to fulfill
- The Father esteems free will so highly He gave us the liberty to make our own choices, knowing the devastation and death it would bring to the creation He so loves.
 - The fall of man did not change Father's plan to have a family of sons, but gave opportunity for Him to **reveal what sonship truly means through the person of Jesus Christ**

II. Father's Longing for a Family of Sons

1. Sonship is God's Eternal Will and Purpose

- *Eph 1:3* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

- Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 having **predestined us to adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- **Predestined"...Gk proorizo...to predetermine beforehand**
 - This does not mean God has planned it and there is nothing we can do to change this
 - It means he has made a plan before creation and we can choose if we yield and cooperate with it or not
- **Sonship is God's eternal will and purpose and brings Him great pleasure**
- **"Will"...Greek..thelema....**
Thayer Definition:
 - what one wishes or has determined shall be done
 - of the purpose of God to bless mankind through Christ
 - of what God wishes to be done by us, commands, precepts
 - will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure
- **"Pleasure"...Greek...eudokia**
Thayer Definition:
 - will, choice, good will, kindly intent, benevolence
 - delight, pleasure, satisfaction
 - Desire which proceeds from ones heart and emotion
- **His will was a mystery, a secret that was hidden, which is now revealed.**
 - God's eternal purpose and plan which brings Him great pleasure is Sonship
 - *Father will bring many sons to glory (Heb.2:10) and will share with them dominion and authority over all His creation*
 - All of mankind is invited into God's eternal purpose that was predetermined before the foundation of the world.
- Father's desire and eternal purpose is to have a **multitude of sons and daughters** just like His Son Jesus, that He could share the same intimacy, deep conversations, lavish His love upon them, and share dominion over His creation

2. God outworks His Eternal Purpose through "Sons"

- **Adam was the Son of God**
 - Luk 3:38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.
 - God's work began with a Father outworking His purpose through a Son
- **Jesus is the Son of God**
 - When Adam failed Father God had already planned to send His Son Jesus Christ to succeed
 - Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
 - Father created the world through his son Jesus Christ
 - Father God also redeemed the world through His son Jesus Christ
 - True Sons carry out the plans and purposes of their Father

There is a Pattern of Fathers and Sons working together through the Bible

- Abraham and Isaac
- Moses and Joshua
- Elijah and Elisha
- Paul and Timothy

III. What is the Meaning of Son?

1. The use of the word Son describes a functional relationship with his Father.

- It is not a gender related term. Both men and woman are include in the term sons
- The Hebrew word for son is 'ben'
- ***"Ben" means a builder of the Fathers House or name***
- The Hebrew word for daughter is "banah" and comes from the same root word

2. A Son is a Builder:

- All Sons carry the DNA of their Father. They are image bearers
- All Sons carry the Father's life and name (nature). *Joh 10:30 I and My Father are one."*
- All Sons represent the Father.....*Jn1:18 Son has declared Him...made Him known*
- All Sons extend the Father's family and influence.....*Luk 2:49 Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

3. Father's Eternal purpose is a Family of mature overcoming sons, who carry His DNA and name, and who represent Him and expand His Kingdom

- We are placed in this earth in order that we might fulfil His eternal purpose for our life
- Our destiny is wrapped up in His Eternal Purpose

4. This earth is our school of preparation to become mature sons and legal heirs

- *Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*
- The whole earth eagerly awaits the completion of God's purpose, the full manifestation of the Sons of God
- Father God is preparing sons that will share with Christ in ruling over His kingdom and creation

IV. Jesus is the Pattern Son

1. God has a Sonship Pattern

- *Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
- Christ as the Firstborn is the prototype or pattern for many brothers

- God's plan includes many
- **Prototype:**
 - an original model on which something is patterned or copied
 - an individual that exhibits the essential features of a pattern or model
- 2. **Jesus is the Role Model for our lives.**
 - **We are to fix our eyes upon Him**
Heb 12:1-2 let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - **We are to have the same mindset and attitude as Jesus concerning our life on earth**
Php 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men
- 3. **God's Eternal Purpose includes our Transformation into the Image of Jesus Christ**
 - *Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the **called according to His purpose**.*
*Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to be **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
 - Note: We are "called according to His Purpose"
 - Our calling is an invitation to participate in Father's purpose. **It is not about our purpose**
 - We are called to relationship with Father and to participate and work with Father in the outworking of His purpose and plan
 - That purpose includes the maturing and transformation of our heart and character to Sonship..to become like Jesus
 - "Conformed"....GK..*summorphos*. *To be jointly formed, have the same form as, shaped to become like*
 - Father's eternal purpose includes taking each Son He loves through a process of maturing to be able to represent Him and carry authority and responsibility in the Coming Millennial Kingdom of Christ
 - **We are called to Sonship....this is an enormous honour and is Father's Eternal Purpose for us in Christ**

V. **Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. What has Holy Spirit been speaking to you about during this session?
2. Why is purpose so important to every person?
3. What is life like when people live without a clear purpose?
4. How would you describe God's Eternal Purpose in your own words?
5. In what areas of your life do you need to align with God's purpose?
6. What steps will you take to do this?