

CS2. Three “R”s of Sonship Design

I. **God is Intentional in His Design**

1. **Jesus Prayer in Gethsemane**

○ Joh 17:1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

Joh 17:2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that **they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Joh 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Joh 17:6 **"I have manifested Your name** to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

2. **Jesus prayer reveals three key aspects of God's Sonship design**

(i). Relationship (Intimacy):

Intentionally cultivate an intimate personal relationship with Father

(ii). Responsibility (Assignment)

Embrace and faithfully fulfill the assignments given by Father

(iii). Transformation:

Embrace Father's maturity process to become like Christ

II. **Each Element of Sonship design is essential**

1. Each aspect of Sonship design is deeply connected to the others and to maturity, like three interlocking circles

- We must participate in all three aspects of Sonship design to become a mature son that fulfills Father's purpose and receives Father's approval

2. **Relationship (Intimacy)**

- Our first priority is relationship with father God
- Relationship gives access to the life and love of the Father
- Relationship gives direction and empowerment to assignments
- Relationship gives access to revelation and power for healing, deliverance and growth

○ **NB. Some believers focus solely on intimacy, and ignore service and personal transformation**

- They cannot mature to sonship

3. Responsibility (Assignment)

- Father expects all Sons to work with Him in ruling and extending His Kingdom
- Father gives all Sons assignments.... Tasks to be faithfully completed
- Father gives each son a territory to spiritually govern and bring Kingdom life and power
- This requires that we seek Father's presence, wisdom, direction and power
- Assignments gives us opportunity to develop faithfulness
- Assignments expose our need to grow in heart and character and love for people

○ **NB. Some believers focus solely on Assignment, (Tasks) and ignore intimacy and personal maturity**

4. Representation (Transformation)

- To represent father as a son we must be willing to yield to his process of transformation
- Issues of the broken heart are brought to light for healing
- Issues of demonic bondage are brought to the light for deliverance
- Issues of heart and character development are given attention
- Exposes our need to experience intimacy and for selfless love and service

○ **NB. Some believers focus solely on their own brokenness, and ignore submission and service**

- They cannot mature to sonship

III. Relationship: Sons are Designed for Intimate Relationship

1. Eternal Life is an Intimate Relationship

- *And this is eternal life, that **they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*
- Jesus reveals that eternal life, the life that comes from God, is the fruit of intimate relationship
- The purpose of intimate relationship is the impartation of the supernatural life of the Spirit of God
- Eternal life is not something we possess...it is a supernatural life that flows into us through close union spirit to spirit, with God our Father
- We are called as sons to carry and manifest the presence of God in our daily lives

2. Knowing God means being intimate with Him

○ "Know"...Greek..ginōskō

○ **Thayer Definition:**

- to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive, feel
 - to become known
 - to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of
 - Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman
 - “Know” means an ongoing experiential knowledge of God that deepens in intimacy like a husband and wife
- Knowing in Hebrew culture is not information but life change
 - The Outworking of knowing God is to represent Him

3. What is Intimacy?

- **Definition:**
 - The act of engaging in a close, personal, affectionate private connection
 - Intimacy is a progressive revealing of one person to another, knowing and becoming known

4. Father Longs for a Deep Intimate Personal Relationship with each of His sons and daughters

- *Joh 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*
- *Joh 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
- Father is seeking true worshippers. Only twice in the Bible does it reveal what God is seeking:

True worshippers (Jn.4:23), and those whose heart is perfect towards Him (2Chron.16:9)

- “Seeking” Greek...zeteeo
- **Thayer Definition:**
 - to seek in order to find
 - to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after
 - to crave, demand something from someone
- Father God has a longing in His heart which He seeks relentlessly after...worshippers
- We must worship Father in spirit and in truth

5. True Worshippers

- “Worship” ...Greek...proskuneo
- **Thayer Definition:**

- to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence
 - among the Orientals, especially the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
 - in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication
- “True” ...Greek...alethes...without concealing, authentic, according to truth
 - Father passionately and deeply loves Jesus Christ The Son. He longs to share this same love with many sons and daughters
 - This is a key part of Jesus prayer, that we would experience the same deep love and affection of the Father that He daily experienced and lived out a victorious life from
 - *Joh 17:26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*

6. Intimacy with Father requires knowing Jesus

- *Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that **they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ** whom You have sent.*
- Jesus is the Pattern Son. He is the exact image of Father God and expresses His nature accurately
- *Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*
- Our first step to intimacy with God as Father is to receive His Son Jesus Christ and follow Him
- Intimacy must then be cultivated and developed as a lifestyle through the Holy Spirit

IV. Responsibility: Sons are Designed for Faithful Service

1. Jesus the Pattern Son was Entrusted an Assignment to Complete

- *Joh 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.***
- Jesus was assigned work to accomplish as a son, and a representative of His Father
- **What is meant by “Assignment”?**
- Definition: “Assignment”...
 - A specified task or amount of work assigned by an authority to be completed
 - A position, post, or office to which a person is appointed

- Every son is given assignments to complete by His Father, unique to his capacity and gifts
 - These assignments vary in size and scope over the course of our life
 - Our identity is not found in our assignment but in our relationship with Father

2. Every Son is given Assignments from the Father.

- *Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*
- We are created for sonship. All sons are given Kingdom assignments..."goodworks"
 - God has prepared unique assignments for each of us before we were born
 - He foresaw our birth and fore planned a work to do which is unique to each of us
 - We are responsible to discover what God has called us to do and complete it
- We are to be "careful to maintain good works" (Tit.3:8), and "zealous for good works" (Tit.2:14)
 - *Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."*

3. Five Reasons Assignments are given by Father

- Represent what Father God is like, reveal Him
- Advance Father's Kingdom on the Earth
- Develop character and maturity
- Develop and prove faithfulness
- Qualify sons for Eternal Rewards of Intimacy, Authority and Glory

4. Sons are "Sent" or Commissioned by Father God

- *Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that **they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have **sent**.*
- Note that Jesus declared that His Father had sent Him
- "Sent"....Greek...*apostello*
 - This word cannot be accurately translated into English language as there is no equivalent
 - *Apostello* was the word used to describe a Roman general commissioned by the Emperor of Rome to enter a hostile territory, subdue and overcome all enemy opposition, and establish the laws and culture of Rome

- Jesus was sent into a hostile territory to destroy the devil and his works and establish the culture and rule of Kingdom of Heaven on earth. His message was "The Kingdom"

○ **When God the Father sends or commissions a son He also gives them the authority needed and stands behind them to support their success**

- Every Kingdom assignment will have adversaries to overcome
- Sons must learn to live out of a sense of eternal purpose and assignment they are sent to accomplish

5. Completing our assignment faithfully honors Father God

○ *Joh 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

○ "Glorified" ...Greek...doxazo

○ **Thayer Definition:**

- to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
- to honour, do honour to, hold in honour
- to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendour
- to impart glory to something, render it excellent
- to make renowned, render illustrious
- to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged

○ One way that sons honour Father God is by fulfilling the assignment that he has entrusted them

○ We must all learn to complete what we start and do it with excellence

6. Anointings are given to empower us to complete our assignment

○ Luk 4:18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED;

Luk 4:19 TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

○ The anointing is the presence and power of the Holy spirit to complete Father's assignment

○ All assignments given to sons require dependency on the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill them

- Sons are “sent” or apostolically commissioned to enter territories and overcome demonic resistance and manifest the supernatural Kingdom of their Father on the earth

V. Representation: Sons are Designed to Be Representatives

1. Jesus Revealed What God the Father is Like

- *Joh 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.*
- “Name”Greek...onoma
 - Refers to the nature or character of a person, everything that person is ■ In the Bible names all had a meaning that’s reveals something about the character or destiny of a person or place
 - A change in name represented a change in status or relationship or character or destiny
- “Manifest”Greek..phaneroo
- **Thayer Definition:**
 - to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way
 - make actual and visible, what has been hidden or unknown previously
 - to make known by teaching
 - expose to view, make manifest, to show one’s self, appear
 - to become known, to be plainly recognised, thoroughly understood
- Jesus revealed to people exactly what Father God is like through His life, teaching, and ministry
 - The world is desperate for a loving father. Jesus knows this loving Father intimately and eternally. And His greatest joy was to share Him with us all.

2. Jesus is the Express Image of God the Father

- *Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, NASB*
- *Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. NASB*
- *Joh 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. NIV*

○ Joh 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Joh 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

- The primary work of Jesus, the Son, was to reveal the Father, His immense love for people and His desire to restore to sonship
- All sons carry the DNA of their Father and are called to represent what He is like
- This will require an ongoing personal transformation by the Spirit of our Father

3. God's Purpose is to Conform Every Son to Become like Jesus

○ 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.

○ "Predestined" ...Greek...proorizo

○ **Thayer Definition:**

- to predetermine, decide beforehand, appoint beforehand
- God decreeing from eternity

○ God's Eternal purpose, determined before creation by Him, was to have many sons in the image of the Son Jesus whom He so deeply loved, a family of sons

- Jesus is declared to be the firstborn of many (a great number) of brothers.
- Jesus is our most honoured elder brother
- For us to become like Jesus who is the image of the father we must go through a transformation process

○ "Conformed" ...Greek...summorhos

○ **Thayer Definition:**

- having the same form as another, similar, conformed to

○ Father has designed a maturity process that is unique for each of us. He is *able to make all things work together for our good* (Rom.8:28) in achieving His purpose

4. Three Key Goals of Sonship Maturity Process

○ Jesus ministry assignment reveals Key goals in the Sonship transformation process

▪ **Healing of the Broken Heart**

Unhealed wounds from painful experiences deeply impact our capacity to trust,

to give and receive love, and to experience intimacy with Father

- **Deliverance from Demonic Bondages**

Unresolved sin, iniquity, curses, unhealed wounds and trauma create open doors for demonic spirits to enter and imprison us and undermine our spiritual authority

- **Formation of Heart and Character(Maturity)**

For sons to qualify for their Father's inheritance they must grow to maturity. In Bible times , a son could only possess his father's inheritance when he reached full age. Similarly, believers must mature into full grown sons to qualify as heirs and to receive all that God has prepared for them

- **This requires the formation of our heart and character which takes place through impartation of the life of the Holy Spirit and through suffering in following Christ**

- Each son is accepted unconditionally by Father in the condition He finds them (Eph.1:6)
- Each Son must choose to personally embrace Father's maturity process, and not resist Him
- Transformation and growth to maturity is a lifelong process

- **Maturity begins with Responsibility**

(v). All of creation eagerly awaits the completion of God's Eternal Purpose

- *Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

- Father's eternal purpose is a family of mature sons, who carry His DNA and name, and who represent Him and expand His Kingdom

- **He began the plan with Adam, patterned it through Jesus, and will manifest it in fullness through the mature Sons of God from every generation**

VI. Personal Reflection and Application

- What has Holy Spirit been speaking to you during this Message?
- What actions steps do you need to take?
- Which of the three parts of Sonship design do you need to grow in?

- Developing Intimacy with Father?
 - Developing faithfulness in serving?
 - Opening your life for healing and deliverance?
 - Developing your character and Heart attitudes?
- What are the hindrances you identify to growing in these areas?
 - What actions steps can you take to overcome these hindrances?