

CS7 The Process of Sonship Maturity

I. Children Differ from Sons

1. There are different Stages of Maturity

- 1 Jn 2:12 I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake
- 1 Jn 2:13 I write to you father, because you have known Him who is from the beginning, I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.
- 1 Jn 2:14 I have written to you fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.
- **This passage reveals different levels of maturity in believers**
 - **Little Children**.....Gk.....Teknon...a little child, a new believer
 - **Young Men**.....Gk.....Neaniskos...a man under 40...strong, word of God abiding, overcoming
 - **Fathers**.....Gk.....Pater...a leader of a family.....protects, provides, guides, disciplines, reveals the Father heart of God

2. Father God will Reveal His Full Mature Sons

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

There is a Major Difference between believers as Children and as Sons

- **Children of God**
 - “Children”Gk...Teknion...a Young, underdeveloped child
 - “Children of God” is a term used to describe those who have received Christ and are born of God
 - Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God
- **Sons of God**
 - “Son”Huiou....Fully mature Son able to represent his Father and receive inheritance
 - Sons are those who are led by the Spirit of God
 - Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God
 - To be led by the Spirit means to surrender control to the Holy Spirit and respond to His guidance and leading in life instead of doing what please them
 - To be Sons of God we must surrender our daily life and walk to the direction of the Holy Spirit
 - Children are often driven and controlled by their own personal needs and longings and often ask God to serve their personal interests
- It is the Father's purpose that each child grows to mature Sonship
 - **Only Mature Sons qualify to share fully in the inheritance our Father has planned for us**

II. The Transformation Process

Who Supervise the Process?

1. Holy Spirit is Given to Mature us as Sons

- Rom 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God*
- Rom 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out "Abba Father."*
 - Holy Spirit supervises each of us personally in our journey, arranging and using many different experiences for our growth and maturity
 - **Holy Spirit led Jesus into a preparation process for operating in supernatural power**
 - Mat 4:1 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil*

2. God uses Circumstances in the Process of our Formation

- 2 Co 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*
- 2 Co 4:18 *while we do not look at things which are seen, but at things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
 - Holy Spirit can use every situation in our lives to prepare and mature us
 - We must respond in faith to His formation process. We must see our Calling to God's purpose

3. God also uses People in the Process of our Formation

- Col 1:27 *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*
- Col 1:28 *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus*
 - We must respond to people God sends into our lives to prepare and mature us
 - The people Father uses to prepare and shape us can be both saved and unsaved
 - It takes faith to recognize God working through them to shape our life, and not react to them

4. God uses His Word to Mature us

- 2 Ti 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*
- 2 Ti 3:17 *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*
 - The Word of God is essential for revealing truth that transforms our lives
 - All Scripture is profitable....brings benefit to us, matures us for service

- All Scripture points us to the person of Jesus Christ to transform our minds and thoughts
- *Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove the good and acceptable perfect will of God.*
 - **Children** receive the “milk” of God’s Word
 - **Young Men** have the Word of God abiding in them

III. **Jesus, The Pattern son went Through the Transformation Process**

1. **Jesus Submitted to His Parents**

- *Luk 2:51 Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. Luk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

2. **Jesus Submitted to John**

- *Mat 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptize by him. Mat 3:14 And John tried to prevent him, saying “I need to be baptized by You, and you are coming to me?” Mat 3:15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.*

3. **Jesus Submitted to Holy Spirit**

- *Luk 4:1 The Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Luk 4:2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterwards, when they had ended, He was hungry.*

4. **Jesus Submitted to His Father**

- *Jon 5:19 then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. Joh 5:20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all that He Himself does, and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

5. **Jesus Developed Intimacy with the Father**

- *Joh 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”*
- *Joh 10:30 I and My Father are One.*

6. **Jesus Fulfilled His Assignment Faithfully**

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

7. **Jesus Responded to the Father’s Transformation Process**

- *Heb 5:8 though he was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which he suffered*
- *Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, he became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*

8. Jesus Experienced Misunderstanding

- Luk 2:49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"
Luk 2:50 But they did not understand the statement which he spoke to them.
Mar 3:21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."

9. Jesus Experience Rejection

- Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

10. Jesus Experience Grief and Sorrow

- Is 52:3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

11. Jesus Experience Betrayal

- Joh 13:11 For he knew who would betray Him, therefore He said, "You are not all clean."
Luk 22:48 But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

12. Because Jesus Responded to the Father's Maturity Process, God has highly exalted Him

- Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.
Php 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
Php 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
Php 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

IV. What Does the Transformation Process Involve?

1. Personal Devotions

- 2 Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - Study the Word of God
 - Build Strong Spirit Life
 - Fasting
 - Listen to the Father

2. Placement in a Spiritual House (Local Church Family)

- Psa 92:13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God
Psa 92:14 They shall bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing
1 Cor 12:18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased
Corporate Worship
 - Fivefold Ministries

- Learn Honour
- Under Authority
- Training and Equipping
- Serving
- Small Group Relationships
- Correction
- Impartation

3. Processing and growing through Painful Experiences

- *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*
 - Rejection
 - Misunderstandings
 - Disappointments
 - Delays
 - Difficulties
 - Financial Pressure
 - Relationship Difficulties
 - Marriage & Family Difficulties

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mat 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

4. Overcoming Various Tests and Pressures

- *Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials*
- *Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*
- *Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*
 - Temptation
 - Demonic Attack
 - Authority
 - Loyalty
 - Criticism
 - Gossip
 - Offences
 - Rejection
 - Betrayal
 - Injustice
 - Success
 - Money

5. Experiencing Freedom Encounters

- Luk 4:18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANNOINTED 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
 - Healing
 - Deliverance

6. Bravely Facing and Overcoming Pressure and Opposition

- Rev 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be His God and he shall be My son
 - Losing their First Love..... Ephesus (Rev 2:4)
 - Persecution and Opposition..... Smyrna (Rev 2:10)
 - False teachings that led to Compromise...Pergamon (Rev 2:14)
 - The Works, Character & Influence of Jezebel.. Thyatira (Rev 2:20)
 - Complacency, apathy & indifference..... Sardis (Rev 3:1-2)
 - Keep Word, not deny Christ..... Philadelphia (Rev 3:8-10)
 - Lukewarm Love..... Laodicea (Rev 3:15-16)

7. Intentional Development of the Heart & Character

- Mat 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 - **Heart:** Refers to the seat of personality, desires, passion, motivations
 - **Character:** Refers to qualities that distinguish a person, developed by repetition and consistency
 - Jesus intentionally developed the heart and character of the Kingdom by yielding to Holy Spirit
 - **Meekness:** Gentle, Inner strength under control, not reacting with anger or frustration
 - **Humility:** Modest estimation of one's worth, free from pride, arrogance and self promotion
 - The Bible reveals many different heart qualities of the Kingdom

V. Insight: How do I Respond to Difficulties?

- Exo 15:24 And the people complained against Moses saying, "What shall we drink?"
Exo 15:25 So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD shoed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them.
- Under pressure the **people complained but Moses prayed and cried for revelation and wisdom**
Stop complaining about people and circumstances
Start praying, asking for wisdom and growing
- **How to respond to Pressures & Testing**
 - Identify What is happening?

- Identify What am I feeling and experiencing?
 - Ask Father for Wisdom
 - Identify What does Father want me to learn?
 - Identify What does the Word of God have to say?
 - Choose to follow the Spirit and Word of God
- **Php 1:6 Being Confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**

VI. Personal Reflection and Application

1. What has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you about this teaching?
2. What actions do you need to take in response?
3. Where have you been resisting change? Why?
4. Which part of the Father's transformation process do you need to respond to?
5. How do you respond to various difficulties you experience?
6. What areas do you need to overcome?
7. What help do you need in growing?