

Discovery Group

Sons and Daughters of the Father

Receive God's Word: Luke 15:11-32

- * Read the passage aloud one person retell it in their own words.
 - What do we learn from the passage about God?

 - What do we learn about ourselves as people?

- * Read the article on the other side.
 - What do we learn about our identity as sons and daughters?

Respond in Obedience

- * What is Jesus calling you to do in obedience to Him this week?

- * Who can you share this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

- * Abide:
 - Matthew 28:19
 - John 1:9-13
 - Galatians 3:26-29
 - Romans 6:3-4
 - Romans 8:14-17

Sons and Daughters of the Father

Names represent identity. When we are baptized into a name, we receive a new identity that corresponds to that name. Jesus calls us to baptize people into the Name of the Father (and the Son and the Holy Spirit). In this act, the person receives the identity of a son or a daughter of God.

Before Jesus began His public ministry, He was also baptized. At that monumental event, He heard a voice from Heaven, declaring, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matt 3:17). Think about this. Jesus had not accomplished anything great yet. He had not healed the leper or driven out demons or preached to the masses or raised the dead. And yet, the Father wanted to announce to the world that He was pleased with His Son. What might this mean to you?

This identity is freely given. You cannot earn it. You cannot become more adopted; more a son or daughter. Still, not every person has this identity. According to John 1:12, it is those who receive Him, believing in His name, who have this right. It is freely offered, but must be received by faith.

Your identity speaks to your value. There is no identity that could possibly give you a higher value than that of a son or daughter of God. This is better *by far* than athlete or bishop or champion or boss or ceo or teacher or president or anything you could imagine. In what ways are you tempted to try to gain value apart from your identity as a son or daughter of the Father?

Your identity as a son or daughter marks you as one who is deeply loved. Your Father in Heaven has genuine affection for you. You matter to Him. You effect Him. You are wanted. You belong to the Father and His family.

Once you have received this identity, it becomes the true core of who you are. There will be others that you walk in - brother, friend, mother, employee, teacher, boss, pastor, leader, etc - but none are more essentially you than who you are to God.