

What Makes Our Obedience to  
God as Our Father So Difficult  
and What Can be Done about It?

# Main Idea

**For us to live as our heavenly Father's children, we must engage with Him by maturing in our understanding of this adoption and the authority we are now under.**

# **Review From Last Week**

Be Still and Know that I  
am  
your Father

# **Review of the Main Points From Last Week**

We have been **ADOPTED BY GOD THE FATHER**  
**and now live under His authority.**

# Review From Last Week

We are not our own. We were given a new nature upon trusting Christ as our Savior. We are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

1Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17

# Review From Last Week

We were given the mind (understanding) of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16

Sanctification is the process of God preserving us by our sharing in Christ's crucifixion.

Romans 8:11-21

# Review From Last Week

Being our Father, He brings discipline into our lives so that we will share in His holiness and experience the peaceful fruits of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:4-11

# Review From Last Week

His process of sanctification leads us out of our **prideful sophistication** to a **child-like faith** in our Heavenly Father.

Matthew 18:3-4



# **Our First Question**

**What Makes Our Obedience to  
God as Our  
Father So Difficult?**

1. The Conflict Of  
**OUR FALLEN NATURE**  
And  
Our New Life In Christ.

a. A Brief Review of **OUR FALLEN  
NATURE**

The devil is the father of the kingdom of darkness.

We are born into this kingdom of darkness.

We are bound as slaves to sin, we can only serve him and ourselves.

We are void of the good that God provided us at creation.

This is what is natural for the fallen nature.

John 8:44; Romans 8:6-8

# As A Result

The desires of the flesh and the pride of life are set on taking the glory of God as our own glory.

1 John 2:16

## b. A Brief Review of Our New Life In Christ.

### **Regeneration (New Birth)**

**Regeneration** is the sovereign work of God whereby the Holy Spirit *changes our hearts* (nature), and *inclines us to repent and believe*. In regeneration, *God makes us new and applies to us every saving grace in Christ*. Regeneration is *what happens in the effectual call* and is inseparable from the effectual call, which *results in a change in nature, faith in Christ, and genuine repentance*.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17

(See the July 9 2023, “The Order of Salvation Bible Class” on the CBC website.)

# Our New Nature

- The Holy Spirit empowers the new nature to produce Christ-like behavior in us. **Galatians 2:20; Galatians 5:16**
- By sharing in Christ's crucifixion, we can now reckon ourselves dead to sin. **Romans 6:11**
- We "have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." **Romans 6:22**

# Our New Nature

- The Holy Spirit leads us in a new way of thinking and change in behavior. **Romans 8:11-12**
- We now have gone from taking God's worship to ourselves to giving God the worship due His name. **Psalm 95:6; Psalm 37:4**

# Our New Nature

- The presence of God's glory provides our needs for adequacy, affection, praise, reassurance, security, justification of my value, and eternal significance. **Psalm 34:1-3; John 4:23**



# John Pipers' Take On It

( John Piper is not God anymore than I am)

"When the object of our delight is moral beauty, the longing to behold is inseparable from the longing to be. When the Holy Spirit awakens the heart of a person to delight in the holiness of God, an insatiable desire is born not only to behold that holiness, but to be holy as God is holy."

# The Conflict

Once a person trusts Christ they now have a new nature.

However the fallen nature is not **annihilated**. (**God has a good purpose for it- sanctification.**)

Romans 8:28-30

The fallen nature will not leave the believer alone until the Christian

goes to heaven. We are told not to encourage the old nature **in any way.**

Romans 6:15-18

# The Conflict

The believer faces the constant struggle, at any given moment, to serve God or to serve self.      **Romans 6:16; Galatians 5:17**

# Spurgeon States the Conflict of the Two Natures This Way:

“When we are born again there is dropped into our soul the living and incorruptible seed of the word of God, which lives and abides for ever...”

# Spurgeon

(He is not God either)

“It has no tendency to sin, but all its appetites are heavenward and Christward... It is at deadly enemey with the fallen nature, which it will in the end destroy;”

# Spurgeon

(He is not God either)

“but, as I have said before, **it has its work to do**, and it is a work which, **assisted even by divine strength**, *will not be accomplished all at once*. It is **a warfare** which, when it seems ended, starts up again without notice, since, after long and victorious campaigns, the routed enemy returns to the field.”

# James Puts It This Way

(He was inspired by God to write this)

James 4:4

“Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

# What Can be Done about It?

Note Disclaimer



# 3. Main Idea

For us to live as our heavenly Father's children, we must engage with Him by maturing in our understanding of this adoption and the authority we are now under.

# **The Battle Strategy**

## **To Begin, Test the Spirits**

1 John 4:1-3

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”

### **Test Every spirit for What?**

# The Acid Test

**Are they preaching Jesus or Jesus plus?**

The core of the message must be void  
of any thing but  
Jesus' sufficiency to save, transform, and glorify us.

# The Key Piece of Evidence of a False Teacher:

They will persuasively bring in some form of self-worship as a necessary component. It will be emotionally based, not a work of the Holy Spirit.

This is the very chain of bondage to sin that the Father of our adoption has broken for us with the giving of His Son to pay our penalty for choosing self-worship over worshiping Him.

# **The Battle Strategy**

**Colossians 2:6-8**

6 “Therefore, as **you have received** Christ Jesus the Lord,  
**so walk in Him,**”

# The Battle Strategy

## Colossians 2:6-8

7 “...having been firmly rooted and *now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.”

# **The Battle Strategy**

## **Colossians 2:8**

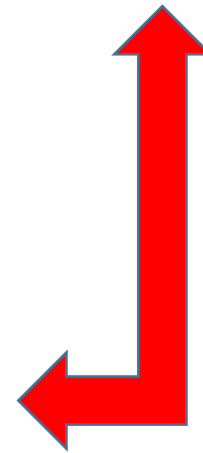
“See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through **philosophy** and empty deception in **accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world,** rather than in accordance with Christ.”

(See the July 9 2023, “The Order of Salvation Bible Class” on the CBC website.)

# The Battle Strategy

1. “As you have received Christ ; so walk in Him,”
2. “See to it no one takes you captive through **Philosophy**; and empty deception in **accordance with human tradition**, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world.”

What is this stuff?





# What is This Stuff?

## Philosophy

“There is a philosophy which is a noble exercise of our reasonable faculties, and highly serviceable to religion, such a study of the works of God as leads us to the knowledge of God and confirms our faith in him.”

-Matthew Henry

# What is This Stuff?

## Philosophy

“**But** there is a philosophy which is vain and deceitful, which is prejudicial to religion, and sets up the wisdom of man in competition with the wisdom of God, and while it pleases men's fancies it ruins their faith; as nice and curious speculations about things above us, **or** of no use and concern to us; **or** a care of words and terms of art, **which** have only an empty and often a cheating appearance of knowledge...”

-Matthew Henry

# The Deception

They are suppressing the truth about God!

Romans 1:18-32

# What is This Stuff?

## Traditions of Men

**“The Jews governed themselves** by the traditions of their elders and the rudiments or elements of the world, the rites and observances which were only preparatory and introductory to the gospel state.

**The Gentiles mixed** their maxims of philosophy with their Christian principles; **and both have alienated their minds from Christ.**

**Those who pin their faith on other men's sleeves,** and walk in the way of the world, have turned away from following after Christ.” -Matthew Henry

# A Short List of Worldly Philosophy and Traditions of Men

This an exercise for you to follow through on.

**Hint:** Look for those deceptions that bring into question or negate God's authority and put the focus on some form of building self-confidence on the deception "I am God." It will contain things that are only true of God that are impossible for us.

# The Necessity of Being Rooted in the Word

2 Corinthians 11:13-14

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

# The Necessity of Being Rooted in the Word

Colossians 2:6-7

“Therefore, *as you have received Christ* Jesus the Lord,  
*so walk in Him,*  
...having been *firmly rooted* and *now being built up* in Him  
and *established in your faith*, just as you *were*  
*instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*”

Being firmly rooted in The Gospel is one aspect of how the Father of our adoption keeps us from the dangers of the spiritual battle.

# **The Battle Strategy**

## **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

“For though **we walk** in the flesh, **we do not war** according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for **the weapons of our warfare** are not of the flesh, but **divinely powerful** for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> *We are destroying speculations* and every **lofty thing** raised up against **the knowledge of God**, and *we are taking every thought captive* to the **obedience of Christ...**”

**Ephesians 6:10-19**



# Remember James 4:4

## **“Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”**

In short it is the turning back to the culture of the kingdom of darkness and submitting ourselves to its rule and solutions that our heavenly Father has released us from.

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

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# Like Paul the Writer of Hebrews Expresses a Concern for the Condition of the Hebrew Christians' Faith

Hebrews 2:1

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it.*”

# Like Paul the Writer of Hebrews Expresses a Similar Concern the Hebrew Christians

Hebrews 4:1-2

“Therefore, we must fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short *of it*. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also *did*; but the word they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united with those who listened with faith.”

# The Admonishment

Hebrews 5:11-14

11 “Concerning Him (Jesus) we have much to say, and *it is* difficult to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing.**”

# The Admonishment

Hebrews 5:11-14

<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

# The Admonishment

Hebrews 5:11-14

<sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes *only of milk* is unacquainted with the Word of righteousness, *for he is an infant*.

# The Admonishment

Hebrews 5:11-14

<sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.

# How Did They Become Dull of Hearing?

“See to it that there is **no one** who **takes you captive** through **philosophy** and empty deception in **accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world,** rather than in accordance with Christ.”

Therefore, **as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord,**  
**so walk in Him,”**



# What Was Going On There?

- They were under pressure to conform to the culture of darkness that surrounded them.
- They were giving in to the fear of man and compromising Sound Doctrine.
- They were no longer walking by faith because they had cut themselves off of the meat of the Word that builds faith.

# What Was Going On There?

- They began wavering and compromising by integrating the practices of the deceptive philosophy that were in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world.
- By letting go of Sound Doctrine they became unstable, they lacked assurance, they gave up the glory of regeneration.

- At this point the adopted child has literally left the presence of the glory of their Father and returned to the fallen nature and the surroundings of it.

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# What Can be Done about It?

At this point the best offense is to retreat with a godly sorrow to the safety and refreshment of the Father, Who adopted us, can provide.

Then confess and repent of not trusting Him to keep the promises of

His covenant.

1 John 1:9

**Then Delight in Him as He Restores Our Souls. Psalm 37:4**

# Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

# Psalm 23

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For the sake of His name.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

# Psalm 23

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow

me all the days of My life, and my dwelling

*will be* in the house of the LORD forever.

# Our Hope In The Battle

## Romans 5:3-5

“And not only *this*, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”



**Pray for One Another This Week...**

**Colossians 1:9-13**

“Our God Will Go Before Us!”

(You are dismissed when the song concludes)