

Children of God

- The world has a standard for perfection.
- In gymnastics or figure skating there are standards and every athlete strives to reach perfection.
- There are many people that I have talked to struggling with a low self-esteem. They struggle because they listen to or look at others
- If I were a betting man, I would bet that at least 75% of the people in this room have struggled or are struggling with their self-worth.
- I have talked with many Christians that with this. They allow the words and judgements of others and the world to affect how they look at themselves.
- Aren't we more than what the world says we are?
- I'm not saying we are better but, we are different.
- I believe we shouldn't focus on what the world says we are but, we need to focus on whose we are.
- **1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)**
- **9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.**
- **Psalm 82:6 (NLT) — 6 I say, 'You are gods; you are all children of the Most High.**
- Chosen, Royal Priests, Holy Nation, God's possession, Called out of darkness, Children of the most high.
- What brings us to this position in the world?
- We are children of God because of our faith.
- **John 1:12–13 (NLT) — 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.**
- **1 John 5:1 (NLT) — 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.**
- Becoming a child of God is an adoption process. God choose us and we had to accept His love for us. That is what makes us His children.
- As children of God we have His Spirit living in our hearts.
- **Galatians 4:6 (NLT) — 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."**

- It's God's Spirit that prompts us to call God father.
- Since we are God's children. What does our relationship look like? Is it like a normal family?
- **1 John 3:1 (NLT) — 1 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.**
- **Psalms 103:13 (NLT) — 13 The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.**
- First we are loved by God. The world doesn't recognize our relationship with God.
- God is compassionate to us and doesn't abandon us.
- **Joshua 1:5 (NLT) — 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.**
- Knowing that God won't abandon us should give us confidence when life gets uncertain.
- So we know that we are loved by God and are part of His family. How does a child of God act?
- As parents we all have certain standards that we expect our children to live by.
- As God's children we need to first imitate Him.
- **Ephesians 5:1 (NLT) — 1 Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.**
- We are to imitate God. What does that look like?
- **1 John 4:7 (NLT)**
- **7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.**
- **1 John 5:3 (NLT)**
- **3 Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.**
- So we are to love because that is how we show we are His children.
- We are also to obey His commands.
- **Philippians 2:15 (NLT) — 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.**
- We need to live that clean life. In our world there are many that lie, cheat and steal to get what they want. They live to satisfy their selfish pleasure.
- As children of God we have certain privileges.
- As children of God we will always be part of the family.

- **John 8:35 (NLT) — 35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever.**
- Our needs are met.
- **Matthew 7:9–11 (NLT) — 9 “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.**
- We are heirs of God.
- **Galatians 4:7 (NLT) — 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.**
- I love the phrase God’s own child!
- Let’s go back to the beginning of my sermon. Christians with low self-esteem or self-worth.
- Our self-image should never come from the worlds point of view.
- I want us to remember who we are.
- you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession.
- I want you to repeat after me.
- I am chosen by God.
- I am a royal priest.
- I am God’s possession
- I am a child of God.
- I am loved by God!
- If God thinks that we are worthy of His love, then we should love ourselves.
- Not allowing ourselves to be judged by false standards.
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