

## A Royal Partnership

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.6

### Created in God's Image & Being Restored

- Col 1:15, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."
  - "image" (Gk, n, *eikon*): (1) image, portrait; (2) likeness, having the same form; (3) representation, pattern
  - Jn 14:9, Jesus said anyone who has seen him has seen the Father
  - Col 1:15, Jesus is "firstborn" (Gk, adj, *prototokos*)
- Rom 8:29 "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."
  - "likeness" (*eikon*)
  - "firstborn" (*prototokos*)
- 2 Cor 3:18(a), "And we ... are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory...."
  - "likeness" (*eikon*)
- Gen 1:26-27 says God created man in his own image & likeness
- God's working to restore us continuously and increasingly to his image

### Authority

- Ro 8:15, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"
  - "sonship" (Gk, n, *huiiothesia*): a legal proceeding that involves a natural child or creates a parent-child relation between persons not related by blood; with the person being entitled to all privileges belonging to an adult child, including the right to inherit
  - New Testament describes a new believers with Gk words *paidion* or *nepios*, which refer to a young child or even an infant
  - We're not to remain immature children, but become adult sons (*huios*); i.e., spiritually mature enough to take on adult family responsibilities & privileges
  - *huiiothesia* is not about being saved, becoming a child of God
  - *huiiothesia* is about a child of God receiving authority as a spiritually mature adult
- Gal 4:1-7, <sup>1</sup> "What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."

- v 1, “child” (Gk, adj, *nepios*): a very young child or infant
- v 3, “children” (Gk, adj, *nepios*), plural
- God gave earth to A&E to rule as their own domain, included all plants & living creatures
  - When A&E acted on Satan’s lie, they abdicated their authority
  - Because a man chose to disobey God & lost legal claim to earth, a man had to legitimately redeem humanity, legally recover authority over the earth
  - God’s solution: Son of God would become & remain *Son of Man*: Jesus
  - Satan had dominion over the earth from Adam’s fall until Jesus’ crucifixion
- Mt 28:18, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
  - Jesus the man received authority on earth, so upon our *huiiothesia* – becoming sufficiently spiritually mature – we have limited authority over our earthly domains & any beings affecting those domains
- Mt 6:9(c)-10, <sup>9</sup> “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
- Because God created humanity in his image, all humans have inherent limited authority regardless of their spiritual condition
- When we first become children of God, we may have the same level of authority although we can begin acting in God’s behalf, but we haven’t learned many kingdom principles & must act primarily as God directs
- As we become increasingly spiritually mature, God grants us increased spiritual authority

### Speech

- Pr 18:21, “The tongue has the power of life and death.”
- Because God has placed us in authority as mature family members (*huios*):
  - our authority is greatly increased in our personal domains & the spiritual realm
  - therefore, what we say has much greater impact
- Our speech produces results in our realm of authority
- Jas 3:2, “If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.”
- Mt 12:36-37, <sup>36</sup> “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”
- You are a spiritual being with authority, so what you say affects both the physical and spiritual realms, including other people, for good or bad

## Personal Initiative

- Acts 3:4-7, <sup>4</sup> “Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, ‘Look at us!’ <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.”
- Acts 14:9(c)-10, <sup>9</sup> “Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, ‘Stand up on your feet!’ At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.”
- When we know what God’s will is, we can take action & expect him to produce the results
- Acts 16:18, “Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.”
- God works through cooperative people
  - It’s your willingness combined with his will and power that produces the desired results
- Psa 1:3, “Whatever he does prospers.”
- Prov 16:3 “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”
- Matt 16:19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
  - also Matt 18:18
- Jn 14:13, “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.”
- Jn 15:7, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”
  - An immature Christian wants whatever benefits himself
  - A mature Christian (*huios*) wants what glorifies God, promotes his kingdom
- Col 3:17, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
- As mature members of his family, God authorizes us and expects us to use our personal initiative to serve his interests

## Key Points

- God’s working to restore us continuously and increasingly to his image
- As we become increasingly spiritually mature, God grants us increased spiritual authority
- You are a spiritual being with authority, so what you say affects both the physical and spiritual realms, including other people, for good or bad
- As mature members of his family, God authorizes us and expects us to use our personal initiative to serve his interests