

The Father's Desire For Many Sons

Introduction

1. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16). The meaning of this declaration is unmistakably clear. Yet we often struggle to grasp the depth of God's commitment that made such a gift possible. Intellectually, the statement is straightforward, but emotionally we may fall short of truly absorbing it—we fail to fully understand.
2. In this lesson, I'd like to step back to a time when the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed, yet before the world was created, and consider the idea that God loved His Son so deeply that He desired many sons—each shaped and conformed to His Son's image.
3. Granted, this idea is not found in any single passage, but taken collectively, various Scriptures make this conclusion seem inevitable.
4. In this lesson I want to examine some of these.

I. Romans 8:28-30.

A. Context.

1. This passage deals with the certainty of the fact that God's purpose will be fulfilled in His children.
2. It is specifically dealing with those who love God..." and further defines this group as "those who are the called according to His purpose" (28).
3. He elaborates by taking us into the mind of God and unfolding His purpose where we see the development of His plan for the redemption of men with His purpose fulfilled – "that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (29-30).

B. God who "calls those things which do not exist as though they did".

1. As Paul unfolds the steps he writes in the past tense, but much is still to be completed ... justification and glorification. This ought to remind us of Rom 4:17.
2. Though spoken as if it had already happened, its fulfilment did not clearly occur until the remote, distant future (Gen 25).
3. Do you see what Paul is doing? He is Taking us into the mind of God and giving a blueprint of the steps in His plan.

C. A Brief Summary Of The Steps.

1. An illustration should make these steps clearer. Jake, a personal trainer, is very dedicated to his work. He has in his mind a picture of what a perfect physical specimen of a human being should be –fit, strong, agile, with a well-defined physique and an appropriate BMI. He forms a plan in his mind as to how he can train a group of individuals to meet this ideal.
 - a. He knew in advance (foreknew) that out of the many contacts he has, only a few would be interested in meeting this goal and have sufficient motivation and commitment to follow it through. He therefore spent several days writing an e-mail setting out the benefits of becoming this perfect physical ideal – a healthier life; less visits to the GP; a better work attendance record; a longer life etc. He also described the strenuous and exhaustive training schedule and the radical change of lifestyle that would be necessary. He concluded by inviting any who aspired to meet this ideal to join him. This e-mail would separate them from those who were not interested. In his mind he regarded those who responded positively as his "called out ones".
 - b. These called out ones, he determined in advance (predestined) to become perfect physical specimens of human beings.

- c. In order to become part of the group, those who had expressed an interest in joining had to meet certain conditions specified by the physical trainer. These included paying a subscription, meeting five times weekly and following a diet which he would lay down. Those who met these conditions would be enrolled "justified".
 - d. Knowing the effectiveness of his training regime, he knew that the bodies of those who had been justified would be transformed into a perfect physical specimen of a human being (glorified).
2. Do you see yourself in there? Justified and at the end of time glorified, conformed to the image of His Son.

II. Hebrews 2:10-11

A. Context.

1. This text is found in the midst of a passage where the writer is explaining why it was necessary for the Son of God to become a man (2:5-18).
2. Verses 9-13 discuss how man's appointed destiny is realised through Jesus.

B. Corroborative Teaching.

1. "For it was fitting for Him ... in bringing many sons to glory to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (10).
 - A being is working behind the scenes (the Father) effecting the plan.
 - "Many sons" are involved.
 - These are to be "glorified".
2. "For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren" (11).
 - The captain (Jesus) and the sons are of the same family.

III. Other Supportive Passages.

A. John 1:12-13.

- No longer one son, others become sons through Jesus being born not by the will of man, nor natural reproduction but of God.

B. 1 Jn 3:1-2.

- Children will be "like Him" seeing Him as He is.

IV. Ephesians 1:4:7.

A. Context.

1. Within An Enumeration Of Those Blessings Received In Christ.

B. Corroborative Teaching.

1. Remind - illustration.
 2. "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (4).
 - Chosen, not by name but by type.
 - When happen -before the foundation of the world.
 - End result specified.
2. Predestined "to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will" (5).
 - Predestined.
 - Not natural but adopted sons.

Conclusion

1. When we step back and see the whole picture, we realize that our salvation did not begin the day we believed—it began in the heart of God before the foundation of the world. The Father loved the Son, and in that love He purposed to bring many sons to glory. Through Christ, we are not merely rescued sinners; we are adopted children, being shaped and conformed to the image of His Son.
2. What God began, He will complete. Those He foreknew, He called. Those He called, He justified. And those He justified, He will glorify. This is not uncertainty or wishful thinking—it is divine certainty. Christ stands as the firstborn among many brethren, and we are graciously included in that family.
3. If I have done my job properly, we will leave here today with confidence, with humility, and with hope. Confidence that God's purpose will not fail. Humility that such grace was given to us. And hope, knowing that one day we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Until that day, let us live as sons—trusting the Father, following the Son, and yielding to the transforming work of the Spirit as we study God's word, and prayerfully seek to follow His direction.