

1. INTRODUCTION

God knows everything. Nothing comes as a surprise to God. The cross was not an afterthought to man's sin, but was always part of the plan.

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

God's plan is SON. God created man to exist before Him as a son, reflecting His nature (see session 1). Through Adam, sin came into the world. Man's default position towards God became rebellion. Humanity rebelled against God's standards for living. Adam exchanged his position of SON for the position of ORPHAN. Through his disobedience, he lost his sonship identity.

2. CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

Hebrews 9:22

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

According to the Old Testament law, blood was required in order for sins to be forgiven.

1 Peter 1:18-20

knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.

We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus – the spotless lamb of God.

Matthew 18:11

For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

What was lost? Our identity was lost through our disconnection from God. By Jesus coming to reconnect us to God as sons, our communion and fellowship with God has been restored.

The book of Leviticus - a picture of redemption

- God established the law to set the nation of Israel apart.
 - Every year sacrifices had to be made to atone for the sins of the nation.
 - Very specific instructions were given as to how to prepare and execute the sacrifice, and how the priest had to live and present himself.
 - This is a picture of redemption, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice. See Leviticus 16.
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3. THE ISSUE OF SIN

Romans 3:23-24

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Sin = to miss the mark.

What is the mark we have missed?

The mark is sonship – the predetermined position God has ordained for us to exist in. God's original intent is for man to exist before Him as His sons. This is the original design for mankind. Sin is to deviate from this design.

The fruit of sin (missing the mark of sonship) is disobedience (sinful actions). The wages (fruit) of sin is death. Adam's focus was on himself – he chose to live by his own will and desires, not the will of God. Sin sets aside God's standard of sonship in favour of fulfilling our own carnal desires.

James 1:15

Then, when lust [*our own desires*] has conceived, it gives birth to sin [*missing the mark*]; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death [*the wages for sin*].

Romans 5:10-11

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The sacrifice of Christ deals with the sin problem – it brings us back to our sonship identity, RECONCILING us back to God, our Father.

4. THE LIFE OF CHRIST: AN EXAMPLE OF SONSHIP

Christ is our SAVIOUR because of what He did for us on the cross. Christ is also our EXAMPLE because he showed us how to live on the earth as a Son of God.

Luke 22:42b

...nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.

Contrast the nature of Christ to the nature of Adam. Christ prioritised the will of His Father, Adam prioritized his own will.

Adam – an example of disobedience through self-gratification and self-preservation.

Jesus - an example of selfless obedience by fulfilling the purposes of God as a son.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Old = Sin. This includes rebellion, disobedience, selfishness and the orphan spirit.

New = Sonship. This includes adoption, obedience and fellowship with Father.

5. ADOPTION

Ephesians 1:4-5

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Adoption = change of position. It's the process of change of state from orphan to son.

The purpose of redemption is to bring us to sonship. To get to sonship we first need adoption, which is the change of state from orphan to son. **Our redemption is our adoption.**

ORPHAN --> ADOPTION (REDEMPTION) --> SONSHIP

The sacrifice of Christ wasn't just to free us from sin, but to redeem us to sonship.

6. NEW POSITION, OLD MIND

When we come to Christ, the transfer from orphan to son takes place. This is a change of position. HOWEVER, the orphan, once redeemed, has to learn how to relate to his Father. Our minds need to be renewed and upgraded to our new sonship reality.

Through our adoption, we are brought into the **POSITION** of sonship.

Through fellowship and obedience, we begin to enter the **EXPERIENCE** of sonship.

To experience our position of sonship, it requires an upgraded, renewed mind.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

To “prove what the will of God is” means to examine our ways to ensure that they conform to God’s will and original intent.

In Him we live (life source), move (behave) and have our being (position).

Luke 15:21-24

And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fatted calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.

After leaving his father and squandering his inheritance, the prodigal returned home. His father welcomed him with open arms, reinstating him as a son in the house.

We were dead in our sin. We were where orphans. But God, thorough the work of redemption, has welcomed us back with open arms, giving us life and restoring our position of sonship.
