

“Which Child Are You?”
By Brother Kenneth Ray
Sunday, November 11th, 2012

Growing up, if you attended Sunday School, or Vacation Bible School, or a youth retreat of some kind, you may have heard the song, Father Abraham. It goes something like this:

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham.
I am one of them, and so are you,
So let's just praise the Lord.

Think family—a mother and father, or maybe just a mother or just a father, maybe you were raised by an Aunt. You could be an only child, or have one or more siblings. An only child has a little of each parent, but is still its own self. In a family of several children, each child is different, and tends to play its own role in the family. They may be happy, serious, curious, adventurous, or grumpy, and yet have the same parents. Some children are more demanding of attention, of time, of wants and needs. Some are affectionate, and like to cuddle. Others are loners, and are more independent. A child may be a follower or a trailblazer. A child may be one that listens, or that causes trouble, or is stubborn. One child accepts, another defies. One obeys, another needs to be made to obey.

1 John 3:1-2 ...Beloved, now are we the sons of God...

First of all, to 'bestow' means to give. So God has given us a way to become His children. So, how do we become children of God? We take His name through a process known as baptism.

Acts 2:38 describes the process: 1) repent 2) baptized in Jesus name for the remission of sins (have you heard the expression, 'forgive and forget?' Well, remission is the 'forget' part). 3) receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. By this, we are adopted into Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:15-17 ...ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father...

That sounds good for us; it is a great deal, if we look at it from our end. But what did God get? In order to answer that question, we need something to compare against.

What does God expect?

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

You know that God wrote the Ten Commandments the first time. Moses broke the tablets, so Moses had to write them the second time, but there were no revisions. Are you tender-hearted or hard-hearted to God's wishes and expectations? Maybe you are like David, and His Word is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path (Psalms 119:105). Maybe you

are like Jonah and make decisions based on feelings and emotions that you may regret later or that you may not be able to face up to. Maybe you are like the younger son who wanted his part of the Father's goods that would come to him. How old was he when he did that? I don't think the Bible really says, but he was old enough to be fully aware of his Father's rules, guidelines, and expectations, and he did it anyway. Maybe you are like the older brother who got his feelings hurt—are you walking around feeling sorry or upset because of the actions of others?

When a child is born, they often look like one parent or the other; as they grow, they may change. When God looks at you, does He see one of His own, or one of many? Do you have joint custody—Jesus and the world?

It is normal, when a child is growing up, that there are years of rebellion—almost every child rebels. There are also years of restoration—the child receives understanding of the effect caused by their actions. Jesus sees your potential and wants the best for you. He wants you and I to love Him and to be loved by Him. He wants the very best for each of us. It's like in those movies with Greek warriors—what's that movie with Brad Pitt? Troy. Remember how they prayed to whichever Greek god they believed looked out for them and they were solely devoted to that god, and that god took care of them? God wants that sold-out devotion forsaking all others. God wants you to run to Him; make a change in a particular area. God wants to look at you and say, "My beloved son (or daughter). That one is mine." He wants to be able to say to you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

