



Part Three
**GAINING A FULLER
 UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT:**

"THE FAMILY OF GOD"

(God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and the Children of God)


Below is a brief synopsis of what I have sought to convey so far in Part One and Part Two of this series on the eternal triune Divine "Family of God" that exists in Heaven. Also displayed below is the concept of "the Children of God" "birthed" as a result of the predetermined plan and purpose of the Divine Family of God at work on earth:

"FOR THERE ARE **THREE WITNESSES IN HEAVEN:** THE FATHER, THE WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE (IN UNISON)..."
 1 John 5:7 Amplified



GOD THE FATHER

"FOR THIS REASON, I BOW MY KNEES TO THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, FROM WHOM **THE WHOLE FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH IS NAMED...**"
 Eph. 3:14




THE DIVINE FAMILY OF GOD



GOD THE SON

IN HEAVEN



GOD THE SPIRIT

"BUT YOU RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION BY WHOM WE CRY OUT, "ABBA, FATHER." THE SPIRIT HIMSELF BEARS WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT **WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD,** AND IF CHILDREN THEN HEIRS -- HEIRS OF GOD, AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST, IF INDEED WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY ALSO BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER. FOR I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH BE REVEALED IN US.



"THE FAMILY OF GOD"

ON EARTH

FOR THE EARNEST EXPECTATION OF THE CREATION EAGERLY WAITS FOR THE REVEALING OF **THE SONS OF GOD...** ..AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. FOR WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN."
 Romans 8:15-30

"MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM; FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES. IF YOU ENDURE CHASTENING **GOD DEALS WITH YOU AS WITH SONS;** FOR WHAT SON IS THERE WHOM A FATHER DOES NOT CHASTEN? BUT IF YOU ARE WITHOUT CHASTENING, OF WHICH ALL HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS, THEN YOU ARE ILLEGITIMATE AND NOT SONS. FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE HAD HUMAN FATHERS WHO CORRECTED US, AND WE PAID THEM RESPECT. SHALL WE NOT MUCH MORE READILY BE IN SUBJECTION TO THE FATHER OF SPIRITS AND LIVE? FOR THEY INDEED FOR A FEW DAYS CHASTENED US AS SEEMED BEST TO THEM, BUT HE FOR OUR PROFIT, THAT WE MAY BE PARTAKERS OF HIS HOLINESS. NOW NO CHASTENING SEEMS TO BE JOYFUL FOR THE PRESENT, BUT PAINFUL; NEVERTHELESS, AFTERWARD IT YIELDS THE PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT."

Heb. 11:5-11

**"FOR THERE ARE
THREE WITNESSES IN HEAVEN:**

**THE FATHER, THE WORD, THE HOLY SPIRIT,
AND THESE THREE ARE ONE (IN UNISON)"**

1 John 5:7 Amplified



**THE TRIUNE GODHEAD:
THE DIVINE FAMILY OF GOD IN HEAVEN**

The above is a synopsis of how this long-time teacher of God 's Word has come to see the God of the bible. "God" (Elohim-a plural noun), is a triune Godhead consisting of three separate "God" personages: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. They are all "God", but they are not all equal as commonly taught. When we get to heaven we will **NOT** see "one God on one throne" but rather we will see all three of these Divine personages; God the Father as the Ancient of Days seated on His throne, Jesus His eternal Son at His right Hand or seated on His own throne, and the Holy Spirit will be seen as He is throughout scripture, "before the Throne" but never sitting on a throne of His own. Every depiction of God in the Word follows this "multiple God" scenario. The popular image of a "3-in-1" God who can appear as any one of the three is only the tradition of men birthed by Catholicism in the 3rd and 5th century. This is not the teaching supported by either the doctrine of the apostles appointed by God or the visionary prophets of God. The image we shall see in Heaven of God will be the same one shown to the apostles and prophets who penned the contents of the Word of God. The "God" of the bible is a Triune Godhead that comprise "the Divine Family of God." Paul the apostle spoke this warning pertaining to the Godhead:



**"BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU
THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEIT,
ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF MEN,
ACCORDING TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD,
AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST.**

FOR IN HIM DWELLS ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY..."

Col 2:8-10

"FOR IT PLEASSED THE FATHER THAT IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS SHOULD DWELL..."

Col 1:19-20

The Godhead is a close-knit family with a common objective unifying all three of its members: The Divine Family of God is determined to establish an extension of itself on planet earth to counter-act the work of Satan who is busy making "sons of the Wicked One" (Matt. 13:38). Remember, Jesus charged the Jewish religious leaders of His day with, "You are of your father the devil and the desires of your father you want to do" (Jn. 8:44-45). Satan is busy developing his "sons of the Wicked One" just as our heavenly Father is at work developing "the children of God." Therefore it is vitally important how we view God for it shapes how we are able to properly interact with Him. We must see our God as an eternal Triune Godhead working in perfect unison and harmony with one another to be "about Father's business" namely, to systematically develop the growth of the Children of God that are on earth.

"BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD! ...BELOVED, NOW WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD; AND IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED WHAT WE SHALL BE,

BUT WE KNOW THAT WHEN HE IS REVEALED, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM, FOR WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS. AND EVERYONE WHO HAS THIS HOPE IN HIM PURIFIES HIMSELF JUST AS HE IS PURE."

1 John 3:1-3



THE CHILDREN OF GOD: THE FAMILY OF GOD ON EARTH

Satan often operates as an imitator of things that are important to God. For instance, he is busy sowing "tares" into the world God created (Matt. 13:38). Jesus elaborates on the meaning of "tares" in this parable as consisting of people on earth that are becoming more and more "sons of the Wicked One" (Matt. 13:38). The reason Satan mimics what God is doing is because our heavenly Father is busy sowing "good seed" into the same world. The "good seed" Jesus identifies are people on a path of becoming more and more "sons of the kingdom", those that have become adopted as "children of God" into the family of God via the new birth. The principle at work is the old adage, "Like father, like son." Satan produces "children" that will desire to "do the deeds of their father" (Jn. 8:44-45), while God, our Father, desires to produce "children" that will "do the works of their Father." That is why we find the will of God for His people stated as:

**"...THE CREATION EAGERLY WAITS FOR THE REVEALING OF
THE SONS OF GOD...."**

**...AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD,
TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE...**

**TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON,
THAT HE MIGHT BE**

THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN."

Romans 8:15-30

What is "birthed" as "children of God" is God's divine plan for His children to cause them to progressively grow up to become mature "sons of God" that are "conformed to the image of His Son." God the Father is looking for many brethren to become conformed to the image of His Son.

Paul reminds us of such a goal:

**"...TILL WE ALL COME TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH
AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO A PERFECT MAN,
TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST;
THAT WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE CHILDREN,
TOSSED TO AND FRO AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE,
BY THE TRICKERY OF MEN... BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE,
MAY GROW UP IN ALL THINGS INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD - CHRIST."**

Ephesians 4:14



The apostle John, like the apostle Paul, recognizes various levels of growth exists among those whom God the Father first adopted into His family as “the children of God”:



I WRITE TO YOU, **LITTLE CHILDREN**,
BECAUSE YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN YOU FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.
I WRITE TO YOU, **FATHERS**,
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN HIM WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.
I WRITE TO YOU, **YOUNG MEN**,
BECAUSE YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE.
I WRITE TO YOU, **LITTLE CHILDREN**,
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN THE FATHER.
I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, **FATHERS**,
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN HIM WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.
I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, **YOUNG MEN**,
BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG, AND THE WORD OF GOD ABIDES IN YOU,
AND YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE.” 1 John 2:12-14

Paul urged the saints, “not to remain children, but to grow up into Christ” (Eph. 4:14). In John’s list above we can see some have moved from being “little children” whose sins are forgiven to becoming strong “young men” in whom the Word of God abides, followed by the commendation, “and you have overcome the Wicked One.”

THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

“...THE CALLED
ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.
...TO BE CONFORMED TO
THE IMAGE OF HIS SON,
THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN
AMONG MANY BRETHREN.”
Romans 8:29-30



“BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE,
BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR
THE GLORY OF THE LORD,
**ARE BEING TRANSFORMED
INTO THE SAME IMAGE**
FROM GLORY TO GLORY,
JUST AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.”
2 Cor 3:18

(WHAT IS “THE IMAGE OF CHRIST”?)

“...THE PRINCE (EVIL GENIUS, RULER) OF THE WORLD IS COMING.
**AND HE HAS NO CLAIM ON ME.
HE HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH ME;
THERE IS NOTHING IN ME THAT BELONGS TO HIM,
AND HE HAS NO POWER OVER ME.**
I DO AS THE FATHER HAS COMMANDED ME,
SO THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW (BE CONVINCED)
**THAT I LOVE THE FATHER
AND THAT
I DO ONLY WHAT THE FATHER HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO DO.
I ACT IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH HIS ORDERS.”**

John 14:30-31 Amp.



Carefully meditate in the three passages stated above. Two give us the mandate to “be conformed/transformed into His image” (Romans 8:29-30, 2 Cor 3:18) The third passage above reveals exactly what that “image” consists of (John 14:30-31 Amp) . This “image of Christ” is the one that enabled Him to “overcome the Wicked One.” It is this image John singles out above that produced “strong young men in which the Word of God abides who have overcome the Wicked One” (1 John 2:12-14). Here is the will of God for all the Father’s adopted sons and daughters:

THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

“TO OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE.”

The image of Christ that the Father wants to see developed among many brethren is one of absolute dependence and submission to the plans and purpose of God the Father. Jesus, the Son of God, was sent forth to demonstrate that devoted image of a Son under total surrender to the Will of the Father. It is a pattern to emulate that makes us just like Jesus!

“HAVING BEEN BORN AGAIN, NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE SEED BUT INCORRUPTIBLE, THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD WHICH LIVES AND ABIDES FOREVER...
**AS NEWBORN BABES, DESIRE THE PURE MILK OF THE WORD,
THAT YOU MAY GROW THEREBY...**”

1 Peter 1:23-2:3

The above scenario is quite normal: “newborn babes in Christ need milk to grow.” What is abnormal is pictured below: “remaining babes in Christ entrenched on milk.”

“AND I, BRETHREN, COULD NOT SPEAK TO YOU AS TO SPIRITUAL PEOPLE BUT AS TO CARNAL, **AS TO BABES IN CHRIST.**

I FED YOU WITH MILK AND NOT WITH SOLID FOOD;

FOR UNTIL NOW YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO RECEIVE IT,
AND EVEN NOW YOU ARE STILL NOT ABLE;

FOR YOU ARE STILL CARNAL.

FOR WHERE THERE ARE ENVY, STRIFE, AND DIVISIONS AMONG YOU,
ARE YOU NOT CARNAL AND BEHAVING LIKE MERE MEN?” 1 Cor 3:1-4



“FOR THOUGH BY THIS TIME YOU OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS, YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TEACH YOU AGAIN THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE ORACLES OF GOD;
AND YOU HAVE COME TO NEED MILK AND NOT SOLID FOOD. FOR EVERYONE WHO PARTAKES **ONLY OF MILK** IS UNSKILLED IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR HE IS A BABE. BUT **SOLID FOOD** BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE **OF FULL AGE**, THAT IS, THOSE WHO BY REASON OF USE HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.” Heb 5:12-14

Paul exhorts all believers above in saying, “Solid food belongs to those who are of full age” (Heb.5:14). We are also exhorted by Paul, “That we should no longer remain children” but rather that we should “Grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ” (Eph. 4:14). I believe we all are aware of this principle which leads to effective spiritual growth:

**“TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO,
AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.”**

Prov 22:6

Jesus Himself followed this pattern as these excerpts below depict. Note also that this pattern set by Jesus has been and should continue to be followed by His devoted disciples.

“AND **THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME STRONG IN SPIRIT, FILLED WITH WISDOM;
AND THE GRACE OF GOD WAS UPON HIM.**” Luke 2:40

“...THEY FOUND HIM IN THE TEMPLE, **SITTING IN THE MIDST OF THE TEACHERS, BOTH LISTENING TO THEM AND ASKING THEM QUESTIONS.** AND ALL WHO HEARD HIM WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWERS. AND HE SAID TO THEM, **...I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS.** BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENT WHICH HE SPOKE TO THEM.” Luke 2:49

“THEN JESUS WAS LED UP BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL...**IT IS WRITTEN, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.... IT IS WRITTEN AGAIN, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD... AWAY WITH YOU, SATAN! FOR IT IS WRITTEN, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE...**” Matt. 4 excerpts



SATAN vs. JESUS

“I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, **YOUNG MEN, BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG, AND THE WORD OF GOD ABIDES IN YOU, AND YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE.**”

“NOW SALVATION, AND STRENGTH, AND THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD, AND THE POWER OF HIS CHRIST HAVE COME, FOR THE ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN, WHO ACCUSED THEM BEFORE OUR GOD DAY AND NIGHT, HAS BEEN CAST DOWN.
AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY,

1 John 2:12-14

AND THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES TO THE DEATH.” Rev 12:10-12

"...THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.
...TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON,
 THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN."

Rom. 8:29-30

BEING CONFORMED INTO THE LIKENESS OF THE IMAGE OF CHRIST



"BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE, BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, **ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE** FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD."

2 Cor 3:18

1. OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE

"... HE HAS NO CLAIM ON ME. HE HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH ME; THERE IS NOTHING IN ME THAT BELONGS TO HIM, AND HE HAS NO POWER OVER ME. I DO AS THE FATHER HAS COMMANDED ME, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW (BE CONVINCED) THAT I LOVE THE FATHER AND THAT I DO ONLY WHAT THE FATHER HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO DO. I ACT IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH HIS ORDERS." John 14:30-31 Amp.

2. OVERCOME THE WORLD

"...IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION; BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD." John 16:33

"IF THE WORLD HATES YOU, YOU KNOW THAT IT HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU. IF YOU WERE OF THE WORLD, THE WORLD WOULD LOVE ITS OWN. YET BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT I CHOSE YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, THEREFORE THE WORLD HATES YOU. REMEMBER THE WORD THAT I SAID TO YOU... IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU. IF THEY KEPT MY WORD, THEY WILL KEEP YOURS ALSO. BUT ALL THESE THINGS THEY WILL DO TO YOU FOR MY NAME'S SAKE, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW HIM WHO SENT ME." John 15:18-22

"...THE WORLD HAS HATED THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, JUST AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD. I DO NOT PRAY THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT YOU SHOULD KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL ONE. THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, JUST AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD... AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I ALSO HAVE SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD." John 17:14-19

3. GLORIFY GOD THE FATHER

"O RIGHTEOUS FATHER! THE WORLD HAS NOT KNOWN YOU, BUT I HAVE KNOWN YOU; AND THESE HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU SENT ME. AND I HAVE DECLARED TO THEM YOUR NAME, AND WILL DECLARE IT, THAT THE LOVE WITH WHICH YOU LOVED ME MAY BE IN THEM, AND I IN THEM." John 17:25

"FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME. GLORIFY YOUR SON, THAT YOUR SON ALSO MAY GLORIFY YOU... AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE, THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT. I HAVE GLORIFIED YOU ON THE EARTH... I HAVE MANIFESTED YOUR NAME TO THE MEN WHOM YOU HAVE GIVEN ME OUT OF THE WORLD... NOW THEY HAVE KNOWN THAT ALL THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME ARE FROM YOU FOR I HAVE GIVEN TO THEM THE WORDS WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ME; AND THEY HAVE RECEIVED THEM, AND HAVE KNOWN SURELY THAT I CAME FORTH FROM YOU; AND THEY HAVE BELIEVED THAT YOU SENT ME." John 17:1-8

4. ABIDE IN GOD'S LOVE

"I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER. EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT HE TAKES AWAY; AND EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARS FRUIT HE PRUNES, THAT IT MAY BEAR MORE FRUIT YOU ARE ALREADY CLEAN BECAUSE OF THE WORD WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU. ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT OF ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME.5 "I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. IF ANYONE DOES NOT ABIDE IN ME, HE IS CAST OUT AS A BRANCH AND IS WITHERED; AND THEY GATHER THEM AND THROW THEM INTO THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE BURNED. IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YOU WILL ASK WHAT YOU DESIRE, AND IT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOU. BY THIS MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT; SO YOU WILL BE MY DISCIPLES. AS THE FATHER LOVED ME, I ALSO HAVE LOVED YOU; ABIDE IN MY LOVE. 10 IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YOU WILL ABIDE IN MY LOVE, JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS AND ABIDE IN HIS LOVE." John 15:1-10

I printed the above merely as a helpful check list for you to consider. Each topic is worthy of a complete newsletter itself. These are some of the things that fall under the banner of "the image of Christ" to which we are called to be conformed day by day as we follow His pattern. These are the areas that give meaning to Jesus presenting Himself as "the way, the truth and the life"-the only way to the Father (Jn. 14:6). For this divine mission Jesus was sent: to reveal the Father through the image of His Son. Jesus taught that to see the image of the Son is to see the Father Himself:

**"IF YOU HAD KNOWN ME, YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN MY FATHER ALSO;
 AND FROM NOW ON YOU KNOW HIM AND HAVE SEEN HIM."** John 14:7

Before He ascended back to His Father, Jesus spoke of the last personage of the Godhead and what His mission would be on behalf of "the children of God" on earth:

THE HOLY SPIRIT

"AND I WILL
PRAY THE FATHER,
AND HE WILL GIVE YOU
ANOTHER HELPER,
THAT HE MAY ABIDE WITH
YOU FOREVER --
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH,



WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE,
BECAUSE IT NEITHER SEES HIM
NOR KNOWS HIM;
BUT YOU KNOW HIM,
FOR HE DWELLS WITH YOU
AND WILL BE IN YOU."
John 14:16-18

"THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU WHILE BEING PRESENT WITH YOU. BUT THE HELPER, THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, HE WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE ALL THINGS THAT I SAID TO YOU." John 14:25-27

"BUT WHEN THE HELPER COMES, WHOM I SHALL SEND TO YOU FROM THE FATHER, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER, HE WILL TESTIFY OF ME. AND YOU ALSO WILL BEAR WITNESS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING." John 15:26-27

"IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE THAT I GO AWAY; FOR IF I DO NOT GO AWAY, THE HELPER WILL NOT COME TO YOU; BUT IF I DEPART, I WILL SEND HIM TO YOU. AND WHEN HE HAS COME, HE WILL CONVICT THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT...I STILL HAVE MANY THINGS TO SAY TO YOU, BUT YOU CANNOT BEAR THEM NOW. HOWEVER, WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, HAS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH; FOR HE WILL NOT SPEAK ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY, BUT WHATEVER HE HEARS HE WILL SPEAK; AND HE WILL TELL YOU THINGS TO COME. HE WILL GLORIFY ME, FOR HE WILL TAKE OF WHAT IS MINE AND DECLARE IT TO YOU. ALL THINGS THAT THE FATHER HAS ARE MINE. THEREFORE I SAID THAT HE WILL TAKE OF MINE AND DECLARE IT TO YOU."

John 16:7-15

Remember, Jesus, as the Son of God, has been given by God the Father preeminence in representing the triune Godhead on earth, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:10). Jesus is returning to the Father and now appoints the Holy Spirit to pick up where He has left off. The above verses clearly state that the Holy Spirit's ministry will be that of keeping before the "children of God" on earth the "image of Christ" in all of its fullness. All that the Holy Spirit will bring forth are in essence "the things of Christ." That includes the nine fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) as well as the nine gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1-9), and even the "seven Spirits of the Lord" enumerated in Isaiah 11:1-15. They all reveal the fullness of Christ. We understand the Holy Spirit even authored the inspiration of the Word of God (2 Pet. 1:20-21) although Jesus Christ is called "the Word of God" before the world was formed (Jn. 1:1, Rev. 19:13).

We must ask why Christ is the center of all that the Father reveals to His children. It is because God the Father has a Divine plan for all eternity that requires further preparation for "the children of God" while on earth. Paul uses, for us as Christians, the example of how the aristocratic Romans committed their children to systematic tutorship all the way to maturity:

"NOW I SAY THAT THE HEIR, AS LONG AS HE IS A CHILD, DOES NOT DIFFER AT ALL FROM A SLAVE, THOUGH HE IS MASTER OF ALL, BUT IS UNDER GUARDIANS AND STEWARDS UNTIL THE TIME APPOINTED BY THE FATHER.

...AND BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS, GOD HAS SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO YOUR HEARTS, CRYING OUT, "ABBA, FATHER!" THEREFORE YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE BUT A SON, AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST." Gal 4:1-7

The Holy Spirit has been commissioned by the Father to "tutor" or "train up Father's children in the way they should go" so that they will be found in the end to be "sons of God" prepared for eternity. Paul exclaims:

**"FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THESE ARE SONS OF GOD...
...JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST, IF INDEED WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY ALSO BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER...FOR I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US. FOR THE EARNEST EXPECTATION OF THE CREATION EAGERLY WAITS FOR THE REVEALING OF THE SONS OF GOD."**

Rom. 8 excerpts



THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

"AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SPOKE TO THEM AGAIN BY PARABLES AND SAID:
"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A CERTAIN KING WHO ARRANGED A MARRIAGE FOR HIS SON..."
Matt. 22:1-3

"CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR HER,
THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE HER WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD,
THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT HER TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT OR WRINKLE OR
ANY SUCH THING, BUT THAT SHE SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH...
THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY, BUT I SPEAK CONCERNING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."
Eph 5:25-33

LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE AND GIVE HIM GLORY, FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME,
AND HIS WIFE HAS MADE HERSELF READY." AND TO HER IT WAS GRANTED TO BE ARRAYED IN FINE
LINEN, CLEAN AND BRIGHT, FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF THE SAINTS.
THEN HE SAID TO ME, "WRITE: 'BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE CALLED TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF
THE LAMB!'" AND HE SAID TO ME, "THESE ARE THE TRUE SAYINGS OF GOD."
Rev 19:7-10

"THEN ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS ...
CAME TO ME AND TALKED WITH ME, SAYING,
"COME, I WILL SHOW YOU
THE BRIDE, THE LAMB'S WIFE."
AND HE CARRIED ME AWAY IN THE SPIRIT...
AND SHOWED ME THE GREAT CITY, THE HOLY JERUSALEM,
DESCENDING OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD,
HAVING THE GLORY OF GOD."
Rev 21:9-11



"AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, "COME!"
AND LET HIM WHO HEARS SAY, "COME!"
AND LET HIM WHO THIRSTS COME."
Rev 22:17

The above is a prophetic glimpse into eternity that will exist for all eternity.

God the Father has arranged a marriage for His Son. This is why Christ is center stage in all that the Father has done, is doing, and ever will do. Not only is it a story about Christ, but it is also a story about the bringing forth of the Bride of Christ.

All three personages of the triune Godhead are involved in this eternal plan. When you get to Heaven the above is exactly what you can expect to see with your eyes. There is going to be a wedding in which a joyous Father will give a chosen Bride to a faithful Son who was most willing to die to bring this great event to pass.

The Holy Spirit and the Bride says you are invited. You can be a guest at the wedding or you can still become part of the Bride herself. It is your choice to make right now before it is too late. The Holy Spirit is presently preparing Christ's Bride. He is taking willing "children of God" and tutoring them to become mature "sons of God." All eternity is yearning for this great event involving "the Son of God" and "the sons of God."

Pastor Randy Shupe

APOSTOLIC MISSIONS
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