

**Sonship**

# Sonship

- **“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God”. 1 John 3:1.**
- **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God”. Romans 8:14.**
- **“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”. Romans 8:16.**

# **Sonship**

- **There are two models of sonship in the New Testament.**
- **Each model has its own set of words and images.**

# **First model - birth**

- **John's writings all depict birth, life, family, children etc.**
- **These groupings all have related words.**
- **The first person to be introduced in his gospel is Nicodemus recorded in John 3:1-21.**

# Birth

- **“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”.**
- **New birth implies a new beginning, a change of spiritual DNA, a man or woman becomes a new creation in Christ.**
- **“Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”.**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17.**

# Nicodemus

- A Pharisee.
- The ruler of the Jews.
- His approach to Christ - night, good or bad motive?
- “Innocent blood”.
- A picture of uprightness, integrity etc but Jesus said he had to be born again.
- We all need an act of regeneration – all of us must be made new, without which we will not see the kingdom of God.

## **Second - Adoption**

- **The second model is the word and related themes that are largely used by Paul.**
- **“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, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself.” Ephesians 1:4,5.**
- **“God sent forth His Son.....to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons”. Galatians 4:5,6.**

# Adoption

- **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry: Abba, Father.”**
- **Romans 8:14,15.**
- **Both models in these verses.**



# Adoption

- This was a Roman custom and one that Jews would not have been aware of; hence it appearing in Paul's writings.
- It probably alludes to the situation by which a person, not having children of his own, might adopt as his son, one born of other parents.
- The adopted child would have all the rites and privileges of the new father, and ranked as his heir-in-law.
- The selection of a person to be adopted implied a decided preference and love on the part of the adopter.