

**General Session #5 - I Am a Child of God:
Born to Be Like Our Father**
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You were lavished with the opportunity to be a child of God so that you would look like your heavenly Father and love your spiritual siblings. You were born to be.

- I. What is a child of God?
 - a. The phrase “child of God” denotes the *source* of your spiritual life and the *relationship* you now have to God – you were born to be.

- II. We Were Born into the Family
 - a. “Beloved, we are God’s children now” (3:2)

 - b. “No one born of God” (3:9)

 - c. “Whoever loves has been born of God” (4:7)

 - d. “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him” (5:1).

- III. By the Will of the Father
 - a. “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12-13).

- IV. Through the Love of the Father
 - a. “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him” (1 John 3:1).

Charles Spurgeon said, “Consider again, I pray you, what a dignity God hath conferred upon you – even upon you in making you his son. The tall archangel before the throne is not called God's Son, he is one of the most favoured of his servants, but not his child. I tell thee, thou poor brother in Christ, there is a dignity about thee that even angels may well envy. Thou in thy poverty art as a sparkling jewel in the darkness of the mine.”

V. “I am a Child”

a. When John spoke of being a child, John suggested what a child looks like:

- A child is unknown to the world (3:2, 5:2)
- A child doesn't practice sin (3:9)
- A child loves other siblings (4:7, 5:2), and
- A child believes in Jesus (5:1).

VI. Your Identity as A Child ...

a. Is Confirmed in Your Obedience to Your Father

- 1 John 3:10

b. Propels you to look like your Father (Eph. 5:1)

- “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1).
- “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:34-25).

- 1 John 4:8

c. Propels you to Love Your *Spiritual* Family

- 1 John 4:7, 5:2

VII. Counseling Implications:

- a. Does your counselee act like their heavenly Father, or not?
- b. What aspect of the Father does your counselee need to understand?
 - Holiness (1 John 1:5)
 - Love (1 John 4:7)
 - Other Attributes?
- c. How can you help your counselee love their *spiritual* siblings?
- d. How does your counselee need to grow in understanding that loneliness and isolation in the world should drive them to their spiritual family?
- e. Your counselee should be bolstered in confidence toward the Father, not themselves.
- f. John reminds us that we were, "Born to Be."