

# **“Sonship Rights”**

**Righteousness -- Sanctification -- Justification  
Redemption -- Ministry Of Reconciliation**

**Once you are born again, you are a legal heir of God Almighty  
and can claim all the benefits which God’s Word has allocated to you.**

## **Victor Paul Wierwille**

John 3:6 explains a very important truth in understanding the difference between the unsaved, natural man and the born-again son of God.

### **John 3:6:**

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Here is the Word, and it is written so simply and so plainly that even a child can understand. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” When you were born of the flesh, you became a son or daughter of your parents. This is why, as long as I live I am going to be a Wierwille whether I like it or not. Why? Because of a law that says “that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Do you have any doubt about your first birth? What about the work of God in a man or woman when he or she is born again of God’s Spirit? When he is born again of God’s Spirit, he becomes whose son? God’s son, not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. That is what it says and that is what it means.

Now let’s suppose that you were born into the best family in the world. You would have wealth, prestige, and accessibility to a prominent position, all benefits which come with birth into that family. What about your birth into God’s family? Does not that give you all the rights and privileges that belong to a son of God in the family of God? Do you not then legally receive the right to claim every promise that is written to you by the Father Whose son you are?

When an earthly father dies, he leaves a last will and testament, and if that last will and testament is properly and honestly executed, every child in that family has to abide by the father’s stated wishes. Well, what about God’s last will and testament? What has He left me? What belongs to me because I belong to Him? What are my sonship benefits as a son of God? I know my sonship rights from an earthly point of view as to what my father said in his will; so now I must turn to God’s will to find out what are my sonship rights in Him.

When you study God’s Word, which is His will, you will find that truth which is addressed to you telling you exactly what you have and what you are because of what Christ Jesus legally accomplished. The benefits of God’s will are legally ours because God gave them to us when we accepted Him as our Father, believing Christ died for us and God raised him from the dead.

First of all, as a part of our inheritance, God legally freed us from every bondage through the action of His Son, Christ Jesus. Besides this, God revealed to His children what they have received simply because they are His children.

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**Ephesians 4:8:**

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Jesus Christ led captive those things which have always held people enslaved, those things which had always bound people under the law. Well, if God in Christ took captive that which always captivated people, then you and I are no longer captives of captivity. We have been freed. As a part of our sonship inheritance we have the right to say that we have been set free from all the captivity that formerly enslaved us—all the worries, all the fears, all the anxieties, all the frustrations, all the negatives. All these can be gone from us because Jesus Christ led captivity captive “and [he] gave gifts unto men.” These gifts which were given to God’s children are named in verse 11 of the same fourth chapter of Ephesians.

**Ephesians 4:11, 12:**

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying [building up] of the body of Christ:

These five ministries have been given by God, not for the tearing down of the Body, not for division within the Body, not for segregation within the Body, but for the unity of it. As the Word says, that we be of one mind and of one spirit. “For the perfecting . . . for the edifying of the body of Christ.” How long will these five ministries be distributed in the Body of Christ?

**Ephesians 4:13:**

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

The time of this perfectness can only be when Jesus Christ returns for his Church. So until that time, as sons of God, we have a right to know that he led captivity captive and that he gave ministries in the Body for the edifying, the building up, of the Body so that we aren’t tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.

**Ephesians 4:14:**

That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

All that deceives looks so sincere, it always looks so genuine. But when the deceivers get you ensnared in the winds of doctrine, you are accepting less for yourself than what the will of God says you have in Christ Jesus. If right now you are being enslaved in any form of captivity and you are a child of God, born again of God’s Spirit, you have not claimed your legal sonship rights. If you are full of worry or fear or anxiety or frustration, if you are all concerned about what tomorrow will bring, you have not claimed your sonship rights. It is written in God’s will; and you have available what that will says. But unless you claim the provisions of that will, you are not going to manifest your inheritance.

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**When you don’t feel like it,  
confess your righteousness anyway.**

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God’s Word is truth. And God is faithful to what He has promised. And His will unequivocally states that “he [Jesus Christ, God’s Son] led captivity captive.” Well, if he led captivity captive, then men and women of God ought to shake off that captivity from their shoulders and not allow Satan to put it on them. They ought to walk with their shoulders back, holding up their heads and saying what the Word of God says—that they have been set free because Jesus Christ led captivity captive. Let me assure you, we can’t handle the captivity of Satan by ourselves. That is why we needed a savior. We couldn’t accomplish it on our own. This is why Jesus Christ led captivity captive, because no other person could do it.

Look at II Corinthians. This book tells us that God gave back to the born-again believer at the time of each believer’s spiritual birth even more legal rights than Adam had in the beginning. All those rights which Adam had, as recorded in Genesis 1 and 2, are restored to the son of God when he is born again of God’s Spirit. All that was lost in Adam—the right of rulership, the right of dominion and authority over all of God’s creation—is regained in Christ plus the new birth which is eternal life. Adam had God’s spirit *on* him conditionally; but when you are born again of God’s Spirit, that spirit of God is *within* that believer unconditionally. What a wonderful revelation we have in God’s Word of what we are and what we have as sons of God.

**II Corinthians 5:21:**

For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

God made Jesus to be sin for us. Jesus took sin upon himself so that you and I wouldn’t have to pay for it.

Isaiah 53 contains a great prophecy about Christ.

**Isaiah 53:3-6:**

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows [pains], and acquainted with grief [sickness]: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs [sicknesses], and carried our sorrows [our pain]: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and [but] the Lord hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.

That is why II Corinthians 5 says, "...he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." How righteous is God? Is there anything more righteous? Be sure you get the significance of that verse. It says that you are made as righteous as God. So if you dejectedly go around saying, "This is sure a miserable day. I don't amount to very much. I feel spiritually that I haven't got a thing, but if I work really hard, someday I may be good enough to request a crumb from God," what are you saying about the Word?

When people who are born again of God's Spirit say these things about themselves either God's Word is lying or they are. It is as simple as that. Either God's Word is a lie or the people who degrade God's Word are liars by saying that they are nothing when God says that they have the righteousness of God. The Word of God says that we have the righteousness of God. Where? In the spirit which He gave us. Now when I renew my mind and put on the mind of Christ, then I bring this righteousness of God that is in the spirit into concretion in my day-by-day living. Then I bring it into manifestation in the flesh realm.

When you go to your office or factory tomorrow morning, or on the farm or in the house—wherever you go, say to yourself. "I have the righteousness of God to manifest to my children, among the neighbors, among my colleagues, among all that I meet." We have to say what the Word says. It is a tremendous reality.

Do you know that justification is one aspect of having God's righteousness? God justified you; and because He justified you, you are made righteous. This God-given justification allows you to stand right now before God in the righteousness with which Christ Jesus clothed you at the time you were born again. So you appear righteous before God right now—not when you die, but right now—because it was God Who justified you in Christ Jesus and gave to you His righteousness. You appear before Him right now without any condemnation, without any sin, without any guilt, without any blame. That is grace. A wonderful truth.

We have what the Word of God says we have, and we are what the Word of God says we are. So why is it that so many believers born again of God's Spirit never really jell? Why don't they effervesce, why don't they bubble, why don't they walk down the street with their heads held high? Because something in their minds keeps contradicting what the Word says. Do you know that that something can't be the Word? That something has to

be from the other side. It has to be satanic. One main device of the adversary is to persuade a person that he is not quite as good as the Word says because of something he did in the past. And then pretty soon the neighbor will remind him of that fault. Then the husband or wife or somebody else will come along and remind him of it. And before he recognizes what is happening, down go his shoulders and again he is just as enslaved as he was before he was born again. Why? Because he does not continue to confess what the Word says. We confess we are what the Word says we are, not because of what *we* are, but because of what Jesus Christ is and what we are in him.

If you ever want to tap into God's great abundance, you have to start confessing what the Word says. You are never going to know the righteousness of God in concretion in your life until you start saying that you are righteous. When you don't feel like it, confess your righteousness anyway, for our righteousness is not of the flesh but of the spirit. Remember: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." That is what you have to confess. And as you keep confessing it, you finally get it lodged in your mind. When you get it lodged in your mind long enough, one day you'll start walking a little better than you ever walked before. Then the realization will come to you that this righteousness of God is really in concretion in our life. It comes into concretion in your daily living because you are renewing your mind. Then you are not only righteous in the spirit, but your righteousness is being manifested in the senses category.

So just begin to testify that you are what the Word of God says you are. These things are legally yours. Why? Because we belong legally to God. From an earthly point of view I am legally and physically a son of my father and mother. Legally and spiritually I am the son of my heavenly Father. My, how we have lived below par. How far we have dropped down the scale. Do you know why? Because we live in an environment and work in a society where almost everybody is negative. And so we just accept the coloring of our environment rather than taking on the coloring of God's Word. This is why we have to become a distinctive people, a unique people. We have to become the embodiment, the epitome, of the greatness of God's Word. We have to manifest in our daily life the righteousness of God which we have spiritually through Christ Jesus.

**I Corinthians 1:29:**

That no flesh should glory in his [God's] presence.

How can we glory in the flesh in His presence when the flesh is not born of God. No flesh is going to glory in His presence. Why?

**I Corinthians 1:30, 31:**

But of him [God] are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Not in our own flesh do we glory, but we glory in God and what He did for us through Christ Jesus.

“. . . Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us. . . .” If Christ Jesus is made unto us, then it is not something that I do, it is not something that anybody else

does. Christ is made unto us by God. Then it is not something that I work for. Christ is made unto us wisdom, he is made unto us righteousness, he is made unto us sanctification.

To be sanctified is to be set apart. It was through Christ Jesus that we were set apart. What are we set apart for? Heaven. Before you were born again of God's Spirit, you were set apart for hell and all heaven couldn't stop you until you became born again of God's Spirit. But when you were born again of God's Spirit, you became God's son. That's when He sanctified you, set you apart with eternal life for heaven.

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**I didn't work to be an ambassador;  
I just got to be one by His mercy and by His grace.**

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Jesus Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and he is made unto us redemption. So everything that you can find in the Word concerning redemption, God has made this ours in Christ Jesus. What a reality and truth this is! So when are we going to walk in abundance without stewing and fretting about what is going to happen tomorrow? You see we are not walking on the solid foundations of God's Word.

Because of what we are in Christ Jesus, God has furthermore appointed His sons as His ambassadors.

**II Corinthians 5:20:**

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ....

It does not say you are going to be an ambassador someday. It says you are now. So what kind of an ambassador are you when you walk around saying, "Well, I don't amount to very much." It must hurt the heart of God that His people have never risen up to see the greatness of His Word and believe it. We are ambassadors. You don't work for it. You simply are one. God made us ambassadors when we were a motley lot and had nothing. If that isn't big and wonderful, what is? I didn't work to be an ambassador; I just got to be one by His mercy and by His grace.

When He says I am an ambassador, it hasn't anything to do with how I feel. Do you know what I have to declare? I have to declare what He says I am. Even when I don't look like it, I am still His ambassador.

**Hebrews 10:23:**

Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

In the text the word "profession" is the word "confession." Hold fast to what you confess. Well, now what are you going to confess? The Word. There are only two possibilities to confess. Either you are going to hold fast to confessions in the senses realm (this is on the negative side) or you are going to hold fast to the Word. You are going to confess something so why not confess the Word. Why confess negatives? Why confess defeats? Why confess that you are anything less than an ambassador? Why not confess what the Word says. Hold fast to that confession; for as you continue to hold fast to it, soon you

*feel* like what you are confessing and then you can start acting like it. I don't care what you feel like. When it comes to the Word and the greatness of it, never budge, never compromise. If you are born again of God's Spirit, you have what the Word of God says you have. You are what the Word of God says you are. So say what the Word says. Hold fast to that confession; just don't waver at all.

When God's will has imparted redemption, righteousness, justification, sanctification to you, when God's work in Christ Jesus has led captivity captive for you, when God has appointed you as His ambassador, you *must* claim your inheritance. Confess that you have all these benefits which God's Word has allocated to you—not because of your flesh, but because you are a legal heir of God Almighty. This is our confession. Once you are confessing the Word, then renew your mind to that confession, believe your confession, and begin manifesting your God-given inheritance in the world in which we live, not someday but right now.