

All Saints Sunday

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

1 John 3:1-3
November 3 & 4, 2018

Fully claim your titles: child of God and saint.

- *Oh when the saints coming marching in... I want to be in that number...*
 - ♦ How many in New Orleans or elsewhere know the original meaning?
 - ♦ We know. Our eyes cast to the great throng of Rev. 7 - saints in heaven
- **How often do you think of yourself as a saint?**
 - ♦ I know that everyone who is cleansed and clothed by Jesus is one of God's holy ones - a saint.
 - ♦ My daily struggle with sin doesn't lend to thinking of myself as a saint.
- **How often do you think of yourself as a child of God?**
 - ♦ Wake to: *I'm a child of God.* Mid day: *I'm a child of God.*
 - ♦ Of course we know it - but regularly claiming that title...
 - ♦ John seems to know that can happen. *See - Look - Behold!*
 - ♦ Sense John's wonder: ***See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God.***
 - ♦ I want what John has found for myself and everyone of you.

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- ❖ *Child of God* - watered down by our culture
 - Advocating for human rights and dignity: *We're all children of God.*
 - ♦ *Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.* Genesis 9:6
 - That was God's intent. But the Fall into sin changed our birth status.
 - ♦ In Athens Paul noted: *From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; ... As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'* Acts 17:26, 28
 - ♦ Paul calls us *children of wrath.* Ephesians 2:3 (KJV/ESV - lit. Greek)
 - ♦ To the unbelievers in John 8 Jesus says, *If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God....*⁴³ *Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.*⁴⁴ *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires.* - Sinners are born into Satan's family. **Not children of God.**
 - *Like Father, like son (child).* Conduct, speech, mindset reveals family
 - ♦ *We can't protect you from becoming like your parents.* Progressive ad
 - ♦ That explains John's marveling. God didn't just stick a label on us and call us his children. He took us anti-god brats and turned us into God's children - children who actually are: *like Father, like child.*

The world doesn't deserve all the blame by their misuse of *child of God*.

- ❖ Thoughtless use of the truth makes it seem *everyday, ordinary, boring.*
 - How many times have you prayed the *Our Father* from childhood?
 - ♦ It's easy to take for granted that God is my Father.
 - ♦ Do we pause to think: *If he is my Father, I am his dearly loved child.*
 - ♦ It's a call to make it personal - a special vibrant relationship
 - The little child that loves Dad, wants to be picked up, carried in his arms, ride on his shoulders, snuggle on his lap - **knows I'm his child.**
 - The son that wants to hang around Dad, be with him, be like him, learn from him - **knows I'm his child.**
 - The daughter that looks for things to do with dad, turns to him for advice, takes pictures with Dad - **knows I'm his child. I treasure it.**
 - Is there any more honored title than *child of God*, the Eternal Creator?
 - ♦ the best part: it's not just honorary! It's real! ***That is what we are.***
 - ♦ God made it so. His son paid for the guilt of all our sins. Then the Spirit gave us a new birth from on high - reborn children of God - soul, hearts, mind remade in God's image. Our New Self is a child of God!
 - ♦ Remade in his image we know the Father and daily get to know him.
 - Without faith (New Self) no one can know the Father - cf. John 8
 - **Don't buy the Lie:** *I believe. I believe God exists.* There's no interest in knowing who God is or what he says. No relationship. **Not a child!**
 - Consider the *cute* phrase: *I asked the Big Guy upstairs.* - *Someone up there must like you. Grand Architect of the Universe*
 - ♦ None of those speak of his intimate relationship with you.
 - ♦ He remains anonymous. Would you speak of your Father that way?
 - Our Father adopted us and made us new and holy in Baptism.
 - Cherished by him, we cherish him, getting to know him, being like him
 - The Father provides for us, protects us, guides us to mature
 - ♦ A foolish child expects God to provide (preferably on demand) and protect, but considers God's guidance too restrictive. Such know-it-all abandon their rebirth right and trash their *child of God* status.
 - ♦ The child that longs to be like our Holy Father - freed from sin - longs to be with the saints and to grow in holiness now. Baptism's call & work
 - ♦ Filled with the hope, goal, purpose and longing of the holy children of God to be fully transformed to be like Jesus. All this infects, affects, and effects the daily life of the conscious child of God.
 - ♦ This is not a *pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps* transformation!
 - ♦ It comes living with the Father, embracing your child of God identity.

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See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him.
² *Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is.*
³ *Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as Jesus is pure.*