

Sons Of God

John 1:12

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FOCAL Read Together John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

There are two faiths that believe mankind "naturally" evolves "upward". These faiths are not affiliated with any local Church denomination that you may attend. One faith, **Evolution**, pretends to be affiliated with science, though all true science is based on provable and repeatable *seen events*. The other faith, **Humanism**, believes that man is - at heart - a "good" creature.

Charles Darwin, first promoted the theory of evolution and "natural selection" in his book "**Origin of the Species**". Darwin proposed that non-life forms naturally led to lower life forms, which in turn "evolved" (macro-evolution) through "survival of the fittest" into higher life forms. According to Evolutionists Goo - in time - turns to good apart from any intervention by God. When asked why many scientists accept *by faith* evolutionary theory, **Professor D.M.S. Watson**, a leading scientist in his day, stated:

"Evolution is a theory universally accepted not because it can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible"¹

That's a fancy way of saying "I don't want to believe in God or that God made all things. I'd rather believe, contrary to all evidence, that everything 'just happened'". The Bible explains it this way:

¹ from his article "Adaption" in *Nature*, 124:233, 1929

Romans 1:20-22 From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. {21} For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. {22} Claiming to be wise, they became fools.²

God left us a clear record that He is through the vast and complex miracle that we call "life". Nature cries out "*there is God!*". He made everything, from the simple single cell amoeba to the complex lifeforms we see in nature. Confused and unbelieving scientists deliberately ignore the clear evidence around us in favor of confusing and convoluted theories highlighted by "missing links" and inconsistencies.

Don't let evolutionists make a monkey out of you!
There is a God. This God has proved Himself through the natural world around us.

The second faith, **Humanism**, believes that people are "inherently good" and can be better if their environment permits. The history of mankind is a blood spattered testament to the fact that this is not true. When Adam separated from the direction of God he brought the whole world to its knees in sin. When man rejected God in favor of unrestrained wickedness, he brought the

Great Flood of Noah on the earth. When the local Church in what man call "the Dark Ages" departed from Christ's teachings in order to follow the Pharisaic traditions of a confused priesthood we saw the terror of the Great Inquisition. Look at our own country - at your own newspaper - and tell me with a straight face that man is inherently good. As a retired military man I can tell you that there is no greater or more free country in the world than the United States. I have seen policemen with machine guns guarding train stations in Germany, people in Egypt living in graveyards because they have no homes, and free speech and freedom of religion shackled in places that I can only refer to as "Sand Land". Through "Voice Of The Martyrs" I have read of Christians mutilated for their faith. In some countries young children are brainwashed into carrying bombs into crowded areas in order to kill "infidels".

America is a great land, with great opportunities, and yet our prisons are filled to overflowing. Large cities like New York City have police forces as large as the army of some small nations. Drugs derived from drain cleaners and poisons are peddled to grade school children. The Internet - a great force for knowledge - is also a great force for all types of pornography.

There is no upward evolution of man - either physically or morally - apart from a living relationship with the Lord Who created you. We all need a Savior, and we have a Savior in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was in the beginning **with God and was God (John 1:1-2)**. He came to this world, taking upon Himself humanity. He lived, He died, and He rose from the grave. Jesus came to save us from ourselves because we do not

² Holman Christian Standard Version of the Holy Scripture

naturally "get better". His promise to all who will listen is that "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God".

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

1. Faith In Christ Alone Removes The Double Barrier Of Sin

All of humanity is looking down the barrel of a double barrel shotgun of sin! What is our only hope?

The first barrel of sin's shotgun is our *corrupted birth*. As descendants of Adam we are **born into sin**. We are natural born sinners. Our forefather was spiritually dead, and all of his offspring (us) are also spiritually dead. Adam's death passed upon us *apart from the written Law of God*. "In Adam all die" (1 Corinthians 15:22). The Root is poisoned, dead in sin, and we cannot get better on our own. The Apostle Paul wrote that:

Romans 5:14 death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam's transgression. ...²

God gave a *verbal Law* to Adam, which he broke. God gave a *written Law to Moses* at Mount Sinai. Yet - in the period from Adam to Moses - man still sinned *apart from any written or verbal Law of God*. The **Noahic Flood** came on all creation, killing all but eight souls, because

Genesis 6:5 ... the LORD saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time,

The flood came because - though God revealed salvation through the Ark and Noah - man rejected God. God's call was "believe Me and get on the Ark". Man replied "absolutely not! I will do as I want to do".

We are genetically predisposed to sin! We are sinners by nature and sinners by action.

The second barrel of sin's shotgun is our *corrupted ways*. As humans we unnaturally violate the *written Law of God*. The Law that God gave to Moses on Sinai is very clear on what God considers right and wrong. In fact, the Law is *very severe* in its pronouncements. When Israel returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Nehemiah we read:

Nehemiah 13:1-3 At that time the book of Moses was read publicly to the people. The command was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, {2} because they did not meet the Israelites with food and water. Instead, they hired Balaam against them to curse them, but our God turned the curse into a blessing. {3} When they heard the law, they separated all those of mixed descent from Israel.

How terrible! These people of **mixed descent** were separated from Israel and marked as unfit. Why?

Because their forefathers the **Ammonites and Moabites** did not do as God asked. The written Law of God excluded them - forever - from being among God's people. The written Law of God - with its "thou shalt nots" - hovered like a sword over Damocles.

How could we ever become a Son of God? How could we ever hope to be pleasing to God if we were *born wrong and rejected right*?

The Law condemns us, and our actions condemn us. Our only hope is in receiving the Lord Jesus Christ!

FOCAL John 1:12 But **as many as received him, to them gave he power ...**

God made a choice to **give us power unto salvation**, but only if **we receive Him**. What did Jesus do for us?

Jesus came as the *second Adam*, that whosoever believes on Him is transferred *from* the family of Adam and *to* the Family of God!

1 Corinthians 15:22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Jesus Christ came to this earth through a unique and supernatural virgin birth. He was born to a virgin named **Mary (Luke 1:27)**. Jesus was *not* the offspring of Adam, but was "the seed of the woman", born of Mary, born without sin. He is Adam revisited, Adam *without*

disobedience. Though the line of Christ can be traced back to Adam, Joseph had no part in the making of Christ. The Angel Gabriel told Mary:

Luke 1:35 The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, ... that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Because Adam - nor the Sons of Adam - had any part in the birth of Christ, He was born into this life *without sin*. He was and is **perfect God and perfect Man**.

1 John 3:5 ... {Jesus} was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Jesus Christ also satisfies our *failure to obey God's Law*. The Bible tells us that - in His humanity - Jesus **"increased in wisdom and stature" (Luke 2:52)**, and grew into manhood. Unlike other humans Jesus *never sinned*. **Though "in all points tempted as we are, He was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)**. He lived perfectly, fulfilled the Law perfectly, and then went to the Cross of Calvary to bear the punishment of *our sins*. Jesus promised us:

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Salvation is based on **hearing and believing**. This is the work of God. Salvation is not based upon our

works, for - again - we have no power within ourselves. But when we believe in Jesus, **to them gave He power to become to Sons of God. We LABOR to believe in Jesus!**

Not that we keep the Law of God, but that we believe on Him Whom God hath sent.

People chased after Christ for many reasons as He walked this earth. When Jesus went to Capernaum many, having seen His miracle of feeding thousands from a child's lunch pail, followed Him there. Jesus told these opportunists:

John 6:26-27 ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. {27} Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

"I am the only - signed, sealed, and delivered - means unto salvation. You're looking to fill your bellies, but I offer stronger meat than a few fish and a few slices of bread. I offer eternal life!" How sad that so many reject Jesus. So many believe that they can do the impossible, that they can work toward some Nirvana or some heavenly portal. These same people asked Jesus, **"What can we do, that we might work the works of God?"** I suspect they, like **Simon (Acts 8)**, wanted to know how they could do miracles like Jesus did miracles.

I suspect they wanted to know "how can we feed thousands off of a child's lunch pail"? Jesus looked at them and said,

John 6:29 ... This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Here is the **work of God, to believe on Jesus and Jesus alone**. Who can make that straight which He has declared crooked (**Ecclesiastes 7:13**)? No one! **"As many as receive Him ... even believe on His name"**, these shall be saved!

2. Faith In Christ Alone Enters Us Into The Family of God

FOCAL John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

To receive Christ, to **believe on His Name** is all that is required for salvation. Receiving Christ doesn't mean a mere affirmation of Who He is. The word translated **"received"** is a Greek word³ which means **"to seize hold of"**. This is a deliberate action, not a careless action. When **Nicodemus** came to Jesus seeking an entrance into the Kingdom of God, Jesus told Nicodemus **"You must be born a second time - born Spiritually and of the Spirit - if you want to enter the Kingdom**

³ G2983, λαμβάνω, lambanō, lam-ban'-o, A prolonged form of a primary verb, which is used only as an alternate in certain tenses; to *take* (in very many applications, literally and figuratively [probably objective or active, to *get hold of*; whereas G1209 is rather subjective or passive, to *have offered* to one; while G138 is more violent, to *seize or remove*): - accept, + be amazed, assay, attain, bring, X when I call, catch, come on (X unto), + forget, have, hold, obtain, receive (X after), take (away, up).

of God" (John 3:3, 5, 8). Nicodemus replied, "How can these things be?" Jesus said:

John 3:11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

Jesus said "We (the Father and I) speak of what We know to be true, but you will not RECEIVE (SEIZE ON) our witness". Nicodemus was holding on to his own mastery of doctrine, his own thought processes, his own beliefs. If you will receive Christ then you must turn from your own ways - "lean not to thine own understanding" - and turn fully to what Jesus has said. He said:

John 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

"My doctrine, My teaching was not SEIZED from man. I teach what I teach that you might be saved". Salvation is a surrender of all that you have to the Lord Jesus Christ, believing that He is able to save. Notice also:

FOCAL John 1:12 But as many as received Him ...

The word is in *past tense*. It does not say "as many as keep on receiving Him", which would put the power of salvation on the believer and not on God. "Received" puts the sustaining power in God's court!

On the day that you genuinely say "yes" to the call unto salvation - believing that Christ and Christ alone is the *only means* by which you can be saved - then

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to them gave He power to become sons of God. The believer is sustained in his salvation - not because he *keeps on receiving* Christ, but because he makes a one time, whole hearted and unconditional surrender to Christ. At that moment God Who looks on the heart:

1 Samuel 16:7 ... the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

gives us Power to become the Sons of God. What is this Power? Jesus promised this Power to us when He said:

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. {18} I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

This Power, this Holy Spirit of God, indwells every Son of God.

Your body in *not* an arcade, it is a TEMPLE, an abode of God, dear Christian, a place where God is at work.

The Holy Spirit is the **Power to become the Sons of God**. God works in His people, teaching, equipping, and molding us. Jesus said:

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

that the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer is to shape him for service. A Christian is no longer a son of Adam, but is a Son of God. Faith in Christ saves us, and God at work in us secures us. Praise be unto God that

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

God saved you - God indwells you - and God KEEPS you. We do not keep ourselves by our works but He keeps us. We are born again

1 Peter 1:4-5 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

to serve God. We who are the Sons of God are radically

different than any other creature on the face of this earth. We are loved. **We are kept by the Power of God**. and one day we shall stand in yonder glory, praising God for His marvelous redemptive Grace!

3. If Born Again, YOU Are TOGETHER Sons of God

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As **sons of God** we have one destiny and one Kingdom. We must work together to bring the life giving Gospel of Christ to the world.

ILLUSTRATE A pastor was visiting the home of a Christian who had gone underground. This person was a promising part of the local Church for a few months following his salvation, but gradually began to slip away. When the pastor came the wayward believer seated the old man in a chair in front of the fireplace, and then braced himself for a tongue lashing. After a few moments of small talk the pastor took the fire poker and pulled a brightly burning ember out onto the stone hearth. At first the ember was bright, hot, and very energetic. But after a minute or so the ember lost its heat, dimmed, then became cold. The pastor gently pushed the ember back into the base of the fire where other embers burned brightly. In a matter of seconds the ember came back to life. The pastor rose and said, "I hope to see you - along with all the other Sons of God - this Sunday

morning".

Dr. Joe McKeever writes⁴:

"If I were the devil and wanted to separate believers, I could chalk it up as "done" and go on home. We are separate already. But the devil did not do it; we did this to ourselves. .. We prize our independence. We prefer the solitary life. No one tells me what to do. I am in control. I don't like the give and take of working with others. This way there's no yielding, no submission, no humbling before others because there are no others in our little world. Each of us becomes a cosmos unto ourselves."

Dear friends, the Church is more than mild mannered members listing to mild mannered preachers delivering mild mannered sermons on how to be mild mannered. The Church is two or more Sons of God gathered together to promote the Kingdom of God where ever we happen to be. We are to be world changers.

Charles Darwin - a failed minister - changed his world by aggressively and passionately promoting his false conclusions. Evolutionary faith has flourished and has become the only faith I know of open taught in our public schools. Humanistic faith has flourished and is the only faith I know of that is openly promoted through the secular entertainment industry. Why is that which is

4 *Pulpit Helps Magazine*, January 2009, page 6 "If You Wanted To Hurt The Cause of Christ"

passionately presented and yet ludicrous molding America while the Church - of which Jesus said **"the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"** - is languishing?

Could it be because we have forgotten that we are Sons of God?

We are **Sons, Children who live under the Father's rule**. We are **"of God"**, the Most Powerful Creator of all that we see. As Sons of God we have privilege as well as power.

Dear friends, we are called to bind together and take this world for Christ. We are called to bind together - in love - and proudly present faith in Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation. We are to bring the message of the Kingdom to all that we do.

We are SONS (Plural) of God. We stand *together* above that which stands against us. God is with us, and we will win! We will not win using the world's tactics and deceit, but we will win - for Christ - just as the early Church won Rome. **Dr. Adrian Rogers** wrote⁵:

"No disease can rob you of God's presence. No illness can steal away His joy. No accident can dim His love for you. In Jesus we have the victory. We are being prepared for glory. Rather than defeating us, all the curses of this world can draw the believing heart closer to the Lord. In these things we are more than

5 in his book *The Incredible Power of Kingdom Authority*, page 79

conquerers - we are *super* conquerers. In the midst of these things - the world, the flesh, and the devil - we can experience the conquest of Kingdom Authority. They have no power over us."

If you are born again then you are a Son of God. You are radically changed. You are called into union with other Sons of God to serve God and promote His Kingdom on this earth. We are told:

Romans 14:7-8 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. {8} For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

You are **Sons of God**, empowered, and above what weighs the world down. You can say with all your fellow brethren:

**"I'm gonna live, and never ever die;
In a thousand years, I won't be here;
I will still be alive.
I will be laughing and loving,
Living and having, a wonderful time.
Now let's just say that I'll be
More alive than I am today,
So if I die before I wake,
I'll be more alive than I am today,
Hey Hey, I'll be more alive than I am today!"⁶**

Do you want to live forever? Receive the Lord Jesus

Christ. Do you want to live above sin and above failure. Trust in His power. Trust in the truth that you are born again as Sons of God. As Sons together for God we can change this world one life at a time by sharing Christ in all that we do.

May God touch your hearts with His Word!

⁶ from the song *More Alive* by the group "According To John"

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Romans 1:20-22; John 1:1-2 _____

**1. Faith In Christ Alone Removes
The Double Barrier Of Sin**

All of humanity is looking down the barrel of a double barrel shotgun of sin. What is our only hope?

1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:14; Genesis 6:5; Nehemiah 13:1-3; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Luke 1:27; Luke 1:35; 1 John 3:5; Luke 2:52; John 5:24; John 6:26-27; John 6:29; Ecclesiastes 7:13

**2. Faith In Christ Alone Enters
Us Into The Family of God**

John 1:12; John 3:11; John 5:34; 1 Samuel 16:7; John 14:16-18; John 14:26; 1 John 4:13; 1 Peter 1:4-5

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