

5 | SONSHIP - HEIRS



Identity

God makes Adam and Eve in His image. From the beginning, He makes it clear why He did so: He wants a partnership with the man and woman. God entrusts His creation to Adam and Eve.

In the beginning of Genesis, we find five key concepts that tell us something about how God sees us and who we are.

Identity - We are made in God's image. In our true nature, we resemble God. God Himself says He is love, He is worthy and good. He has a destiny for us.

Blessing and multiplication - God blesses this man He made, then God commissions us to be fruitful. God made everything that lives with the ability to multiply.

Authority - With God's blessing, God gives man a garden and authority to care for it and develop it.

Responsibility - With authority comes responsibility to care for, protect, develop and multiply your area, the garden.

Freedom of choice - In the garden there is only one instruction: eat from all the trees, including the tree of life, but do not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (*Genesis 1:26-28*)

What went wrong?

Adam and Eve engage in conversation with the serpent, who gives different insights than God gave. Adam and Eve choose to listen to the serpent. They no longer trust God's instructions, this has great consequences for them and their children, and offspring. As a result, shame and fear come, and Adam and Eve hide from God. The eyes of their minds are opened, as they eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Henceforth, everything is different.

Identity is compromised. Adam and Eve hide from God; intimacy with God changes. To their senses, God is far away. The curse comes upon the earth. At the same time, their **authority and responsibility** are affected. As a result of the choice, the relationship between people becomes different, even so, that in that first family, one son kills the other. (*Genesis 3:1-13*)

Is there a solution?

The good news is that in Jesus Christ we have become a new creation. In Jesus, it becomes possible again to live according to God's original intention, in intimacy with Him.

In Christ, you have the opportunity to understand God's intention for your life. You can begin to walk in His plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Through Jesus' words and the Holy Spirit, you receive the life that was available to Adam and Eve in the garden - the fruit of the tree of life. Do you want that?

In Jesus, you receive back not only your original identity, but also your authority. You receive this authority from God in the area He

has intended for you. What God intended for Adam and Eve in Genesis, living in communion with Him, is now possible through Jesus. Jesus brings reconciliation in relationship with God the Father and with each other. In this commission, we are given the same authority that Jesus received from the Father and the responsibility to use that authority well.

Now that we are in Christ, we are no longer God's creation that has failed, that has lost everything. In Jesus Christ, God sees us as His children. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

'A son or daughter is different from a servant or slave. A son or daughter is an heir.'

Heir with Abraham

He or she inherits from the father. Abraham was such an heir; he lived from the tree of life. That means he listened to God and did what God showed him. Because of this, Abraham and his family were blessed.

You, as a believing son or daughter of God, may trust that you are His heir. Just as Abraham was given a promise that he would take possession of the world, you may take possession of a piece of that world. For this we have been given the Holy Spirit.

(Galatians 3:18,29)

Curse broken, you are blessed

If you live in Christ, the curse that came through Adam and Eve's choices is broken. You are the instrument through which God, together with your Ekklesia, breaks the power Satan has over the earth. Together with your spiritual family, you have the power to bind and dissolve and to pass on the Kingdom and blessing in your area, your 'garden'.

EXERCISE:

1. Do you see yourself as an heir?
 - If so, what do you experience as your inheritance, your territory?
 - If not, what steps will you take to live as a son or daughter, as God intended?
2. Review the five key concepts described in this chapter and describe what God is saying about them in your life.
 - Identity:
 - Blessing and multiplication
 - Authority
 - Responsibility
 - Freedom of Choice
3. Looking at the place where you live, study and work, how do you influence your sphere of influence with the Kingdom of God? How will you involve your Ekklesia in this?



LESSON LEARNED:

God the Father loves you, He accepts you, not because you are good, but because you are created in His image. You are His likeness.



A large, empty rectangular box with a thin red border, intended for writing or drawing.