



In this study we again use the words father and son, but all principles apply to mother and daughter as well.

### A son comes home to the father

*Gal 4: 4-7*

The difference between a mercenary and a son is that the son has come home to the father and the mercenary works for the father.

The son knows who his father is and wants to follow that example. The mercenary will be in the house and doing his job, but he never feels at home.

A son learns from the father and when the time has come for maturity, he will experience that the father trusts him to do what the son is meant for.

### A son feels safe in his father's love

*1 John 4:18*

*Rom 8:20-21*

The father wants to give his love to his son. A son would like to receive the love of the father.

Because of this the fear of the father disappears. There is respect from the son to the father. There is a desire to be with the father and learn from him until he is spiritually mature.

Mercenaries want to work; they have to work to make a living.

Fathers love unconditionally. You cannot earn unconditional love. A spiritual son wants to be close to the father, even when things are not going well. He is allowed to make mistakes and is not afraid of them. A mercenary can receive love only if he is successful.

### A son receives the inheritance

*Rom 8:17*

The father gives the son the inheritance. The son receives and is focused on what he receives so he can pass it on to others. A mercenary relies much more on his own strength and looks at what he has himself.

### A son lives for his father and his family

*John 17: 1-10*

The confidence that Jesus has in His Father is great. He is totally committed to doing what the Father asks. But He also knows very well what His legacy is and what his mission is.

*1 Thessalonians 1: 1-7*

We see the same attitude in Paul and Peter. They also know where their strength and love comes from and to whom they can pass it on. They are serious about the commission God has given them.

The word submission in English fits this topic well. It means to be subject to another's mission (submit to someone else's ministry). Jesus, and Paul and Peter are subject to the mission that God the Father has for them. They all do this from their relationship with God the Father. Both Peter and Paul had spiritual sons who followed them until they too could serve in their adulthood. They helped carry out the dedication of their spiritual father.

### A son knows his place

*1 Tess 2: 4-7*

Paul knew who gave him his commission and place. A mercenary, on the other hand, will promote himself and work for that place. He needs spiritual achievement in order to gain recognition from people and even from God. A son feels safe in the love of the Father.



## **A son covers faults with love**

*1 Cor 13: 4-7*

A son knows honor and respect as values in his spiritual home. If others make mistakes, he will not take advantage of them, but will help to fix or cover them so that recovery is possible.

On the contrary, a son helps to build others up and encourages them to come into their destiny. A mercenary lives from competition. He regularly compares.

## **EXERCISE**



*Once you have studied the different themes, do you act like a son or daughter, or are you more of a servant, a mercenary?*



*What do you think God wants to teach you through this lesson and what can you do about it? What needs to change in your thinking? Write this down. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this. Ask the Holy Spirit for a revelation in this area.*

## **PRINCIPLE**

*If you learn to be a good son or daughter to your spiritual father and mother, you will also become an heir.*

*You will have many spiritual sons and daughters yourself.*

*What you sow you will reap!*