

## Children Have It Good

Introduction: Family portraits have a high level of significance and meaning for those in it. The Bible's picture of God's spiritual family shows us in that picture as children of a loving Father. What does that picture look like?

### I. Children of God in birth.

- A. John 1:1-13. Those who receive and believe Jesus.
- B. John 3:3-8. A birth only by water and the spirit—baptism.
- C. 1 John 2:29. "...everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him."

### II. Children of God in lifestyle, spirit-living. (Rom. 8:13-17)

### III. Why the metaphor of children? To show us the privileges/blessings of obeying our Father and living as faithful children.

- A. God is our *Father* along with all it entails.
- B. The blessing of an inheritance.
  - 1. Heirs. (Eph. 3:6)
  - 2. Children of promise. (Rom. 9:6-9a, 25-30)

### IV. Characteristics of children of God:

- A. Children imitate their parents. "Be **imitators** of God as beloved children." (Eph. 5:1) Because we are imitators of God we shall be like him. (1 John 3:1, 2)
- B. Be "**blameless and innocent**, as children of God, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation..." (Phil. 2:15)
- C. Christ's kingdom centered on child-like **lowliness**. (Mt. 18:1-6)

Conclusion: The picture of children is one of new life, dependance and trust in the life-giver, our Father, God. (Luke 11:10-13) As children we are completely dependent upon the Father's provisions. He is a Father who listens. Just like children, we need to learn patience when our Father doesn't seem to give us what we want, when we want it.

**In Two Weeks**, we'll talk about the church as described in familial terms of Christians as **siblings**—related to each other as brothers and sisters "*in Christ*." How does that picture of the family relationship help me as a Christian in my relationship with God and fellow Christians?