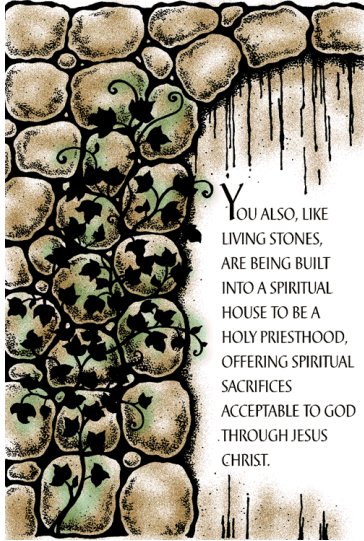


# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 12



## MAN—SONS OF GOD

*Scripture Texts: 1 John 3:1-3; Ephesians 2:4-7, Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 4:30; 2 Corinthians 3:18*

We study today of purified children of God, of the family of God, of a temple built of people in which God lives, of people sealed with the Holy Spirit, of people sitting in heavenly places in communion with God, of people beholding God and changed from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit. These make up the body of Christ, the Church of God. These are people in this present world, not in some future time. **Now are we the sons of God.**

It is good to realize our privileges in Christ so as not to let them slip away. Saints are pure, holy sons of God now. They enjoy the best this life has to offer.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*

—*Philippians 2:15*

### Love Without Measure

**1 John 3:1-2** We may behold the working of God's love but can never measure its greatness. It has taken sinful humans and made them His sons—NOW, in this earthly life. Even better awaits in the next life. To be a son of God is to be separated from the world. It is to lose the love and understanding of worldly people. Not knowing God, they cannot comprehend godly people.

**1 John 3:3** Everyone having hope of living like God and of living in Heaven with God **purifieth himself**. Only the pure can live in the city where **in no wise can enter into it anything that defileth** (Revelation 21:27). How pure is this? **Even as he is pure**. We may be **partakers of his holiness** (Hebrews 12:10). Here we see that our salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. He saves us and makes us holy. When purified, one must use care to **keep himself unspotted from the world** or become defiled again (James 1:27). Read **1 John 2:15-16**. We must lay aside all fleshly habits and uncleanness that defile our godly image. We must repent and accept His cleansing and then walk in the light of His Word to stay purified. By doing this, one keeps **himself unspotted**.

A son of God resembles the Father. The characteristics of the Father are manifested in him. The son of God is always conscious of his position as a member of God's family. It is an inner, spiritual relationship and shows outwardly in righteous living. God's children are known to Him (**2 Timothy 2:19**).

### Together in Christ

**Ephesians 2:4-7** Amazing is the mercy and love of God which lifts a sinner from "dead in sins" to "alive in Christ." Note the repetition of "together." **Together with Christ, raised us up together . . . together in heavenly places**. God is a God of unity. All saints are joined in one body, one building. (**Romans 12:5; 1 Peter 2:5**) They are united with Christ. God quickens them with the same life He gave Christ when He raised Him from the dead. They are lifted to sit in Christ in the heavenly places. Sons of God enjoy a holy fellowship that the world knows nothing about. But any sinner who turns to Christ, repents and believes may sit there too. This is just a foretaste of what awaits in greater fullness in the next life—**in the ages to come**.

**Ephesians 2:19-22** A basic human need is to belong, to be a part of, and to be united with others of like nature in mutual activities. As we become sons of God, God makes us **fellow citizens with the saints** and a family, **household of God**. The people He receives as sons, He builds into a building along with Jesus, the Apostles, Prophets, and all other saints. One spiritual building, **an holy temple in the Lord**. It has a purpose—**an habitation of God through the Spirit**. God comes to live in us, His temple (**1 Corinthians 6:19**).

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### Sealed With the Spirit

**Ephesians 4:30** A seal shows ownership; it is protection, showing that a value is placed upon the object. The sealing is done not BY the Holy Spirit but WITH Him. The Spirit Himself IS the seal. His presence in the heart seals a saint (**Ephesians 1:13**). **Ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.** The sealing is present. The redemption is future.

God's people rub shoulders with the common crowd. They can be identified by their seal. They are bound by this seal into one body. They make up the true Church of God, the living, divine organism of which Christ is Head. This seal separates the church from those just attending the congregation.

### Changed to Look Like the Father

**2 Corinthians 3:18** The saint, the son of God, is looking to God, communing with Him. Loving His Word, walking with Him, he beholds **the glory of the Lord**. He becomes like what he beholds—**changed into the same image**. The change is a daily growth **from glory to glory**. (Not a growth INTO salvation, but a growth in grace of one after he is saved.) It is done **by the Spirit of the Lord** dwelling in the person. The son of God must cooperate in faith, devotion, and obedience if he is to keep the seal of God. How blessed are those who enter into these glories, who climb unto **the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!** (**Ephesians 4:13**). Nobody ever obeyed God in vain.

Saints should always realize their privileges in Christ. It is tragic that so many professors of salvation with no victory, no manifestation of Christ-likeness claim to be sons of God. **He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one** (**Hebrews 2:11**).

### JUST A THOUGHT

**To attend the family gatherings does not make one a member of the family.**

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