

## Loved and Valued

*Believer's Notes*

Solid Rock Pentecostal Church—Leaders' Conference 2024

## You are Loved and Valued

- Every good child reflects the goodness of the father
- Why did the child beg for the possessions, this shows the weakness of the father/parents
- Why again the left home child also complains!
- Many of us as leaders do not listen to the children's concerns;
- The father was responding to his earlier mistakes, silence and mismanagement of the cares of the children's times of their first times.
- What looks small to us parents, is big to the children,
- Maybe the father gave the child to ease (okumwejjako, okumwewonya, this was not the way to solve the family problem.
- Solving the problem, the wrong way creates another bigger and harder problem;
- Possibly this family had no discipline; (enkola ezigobererwa)

John 1:10—13 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11—He came to **His own**, and His own did not receive Him. 12—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right** to become **children of God**, to those who **believe in His name**: 13—who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God. (NKJV)

The condition to be given the **right** (certificate, license, permit to operate without limit) in the family of God as children, is/was to believe in the name of Jesus.

Believing in the name of Jesus is the pass mark in heaven/the family of God to qualify for citizenship;

Believing is putting your TOTAL TRUST that He is the only one who can make you **clean** (adding value) to meet the standards of the family of God.

If you are here and you have not received Him, you are still out of this right to the family benefits of God; you can take this opportunity now so that you can benefit in the next part of this lesson.

Say with me this prayer: Lord Jesus I thank you for coming into the world to clean my from all my sins, you alone can open a door for me to have the right to enter the family of God. Change my status now, in Jesus' name, Amen.

To some whom Jesus has already come into our lives and have not yet understood Him and what He has done, might be living valueless life and full of complaints! *Luke 15:1—Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2—And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."* (NKJV)

***In this lesson, we will learn 5 principles that will help enjoy the true love of this family;***

John 1: 11—He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

What did Jesus do to prove His difference from those who had come before Him claiming they came from God for a purpose?

Eph 2:17—And He came and preached **peace** to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both **have access** by one Spirit **to**

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**the Father.** 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (NKJV)

✓ **Pp. 1—You must welcome this Peace of God that comes with Jesus from God the father to have room/space in your inside.**

**What is peace?** —this is the inner calmness one receives freely from God;

Luke 2:10 “I bring you good news **of great joy**, which shall be to **all people**”.

Paul in his greetings to the Colossians, he talks about the same **Peace** to the **saints and faithful brethren**

**Colossians 1:2—; Col. 3:15; Tit 1:4—; 2Tim. 2:22—; 2Tim. 1:2; 2Thess. 3:16—**

This peace goes beyond human understanding;

**Philippians 4:7—**

✓ **Pp. 2—have a steady and growing relationship with the Spirit of God for easy access to the Father's love.**

**Eph. 2:18—For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

**Who are these BOTH? (Eph 2:13)**

The Jews and the Gentiles were totally far apart from each other in God's things; it is stated in the church history that the Gentiles were formerly far off from God and his people the Jews. The expression is derived from the custom of speaking among the Hebrews. God was supposed to reside in the temple. It was a privilege to be near the temple. Those who were remote from Jerusalem and the temple were regarded as far off from God, and hence as peculiarly irreligious and wicked.

Are made nigh. Are admitted to the favor of God, and permitted to approach him as his worshippers. **Eph. 2:12**

**By the blood of Christ.** The Jews came near to the mercy seat on which the symbol of the Divine presence rested, Rom. 3:25, by the blood that was offered in sacrifice; that is, the high priest approached that mercy seat with blood and sprinkled it before God. Now we are permitted to approach him with the blood of the atonement. The shedding of that blood has prepared the way by which Gentiles as well as Jews may approach God, and it is by that offering that we are led to seek God.

**Why did God choose to do this union of humanity and yet in the beginning He had left us out?**

God was disappointed by His people the Jews and now wanted to work with Gentiles according to the commitment they had in doing things of their gods; with the plan to give them the power of the Holy Spirit so, they could serve God mightily.

**Acts 8:16—; Acts 10:45—;**

Paul says in 1 Timothy 1:12—**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, (NKJV)**

✓ **Pp. 3—Conform to the patterns of the family and delight in your citizenship**

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Ephesians 2:19

The church is compared to a city, and every converted sinner is free of it. It is also compared to a house, and every converted sinner is one of the family; a servant, and a child in God's house. The church is also compared to a building, founded on the doctrine of Christ; delivered by the prophets of the Old Testament, and the apostles of the New. God dwells in all believers now; they become the temple of God through the working of the blessed Spirit.

- Let us then ask ourselves, are our hopes fixed on Christ, according to the doctrine of his word?
- Have we devoted ourselves as holy temples to God through him?
- Are we habitations of God by the Spirit, are we spiritually-minded, and do we bring forth the fruits of the Spirit?

Let us take heed not to grieve the holy Comforter. Let us desire his gracious presence and his influence upon our hearts. Let us seek to discharge the duties allotted to us, to the glory of God.

Eph 2:19

**Verse 19. You are no more strangers**—In this chapter the Church of God is compared to a city, which, has a variety of privileges, rights and more, founded on regular charters and grants. The Gentiles, having believed in Christ, are all incorporated with the believing Jews in this holy city. Formerly, when any of them came to Jerusalem, being strangers, they had no kind of rights whatever; nor could they, as mere heathens, settle among them. Again, if any of them, convinced of the errors of the Gentiles, acknowledged the God of Israel, but did not receive circumcision, he might dwell in the land, but he had no right to the blessings of the covenant; such might be called sojourners—persons who have no property in the land, and may only **rent a house for the time being**.

**Fellow citizens with the saints**—Called to the enjoyment of equal privileges with the Jews themselves, who, by profession, were a holy people; who were bound to be holy, and therefore are often called saints, or holy persons, when both their **hearts and conduct** were far from being right in the sight of God.

**Of the household of God**—The house of God is the temple; the temple was a type of the Christian Church; this has now become God's house; all genuine believers are considered as being domestics, of this house, the **children** and **servants** of God Almighty, **having all equal rights**, privileges, and advantages; as all, through one Spirit, by the sacred head of the family, had equal access to God, and **each might receive as much grace and as much glory as his soul could contain**.

1 Peter 1:14

- ✓ **Pp. 4—All our FOCUS must be directly aimed at the head of our family only.**

Why did you choose to come and join this family of God?

Possibly to have a one-stop center for all our concerns; John 1:12—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right to become children of God**, to those who **believe in His name**:

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In consideration to the roles of a father unlike other fathers who have painted a bad image to their families, God the Father has all the qualities of a father if we can put our whole trust/focus on Him alone.

I John 3:1—3;

As a father and a child, they must have something in common—holy. Purify ourselves—putting off all the things that belong to other families

✓ **Pp. 5: Fulfill God's planed purpose of your purchase; God's great household**

Rev. 5:9—; I Cor. 7:22—24

2Tim. 2:19—21

We are the one to fulfill the works in the house/family of our God; when God wants to do some work in His family, He thinks to find a certain vessel to use so that He can certify His people.

Through Christ himself as the builder of, and the chief corner-stone in, his church, yet he **employs his ministers now**, as he did the prophets and apostles of old, to lay the foundation, and carry on the superstructure, and no one apostle had a privilege in this above another;

**Verse 20. But in a great house.** Still keeping up the comparison of the church with a building. The idea is, that the church is a large structure, and that in such a building we are not to expect entire uniformity in all the articles which it contains.

**There are not only vessels of gold and of silver**, etc. You are not to expect to find all the articles of furniture alike, or all made of the same material. Variety in the form, and use, and material, is necessary in furnishing such a house.

**And some to honor, and some to dishonor.** Some to most honorable uses—as drinking-vessels, and vessels to contain costly tools, and some for the less honorable purposes connected with cooking, etc. The same thing is to be expected in the church.

I Cor. 12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. (NKJV) (1 Cor. 12:15-26).

In the church it is to be assumed that there will be a great variety of gifts and fulfilments, and that we are no more to expect that all will be alike than we are that all the vessels in a large house will be made of gold.

**Verse 2Tim. 2:21.** If a man therefore eliminates himself from **these**, he shall be a vessel of honor. If a man cleanse or purify himself.

The word "**these**" refers, here, to the **persons represented by the vessels of wood** and of earth—the vessels made to dishonor, as mentioned in the previous verse. Ideally, if one would preserve himself from the **corrupting influence** of such men, he would be fitted to be a vessel of honor, or to be employed in the most useful and honorable service in the cause of his Master.

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Ebitali bya muwendo biba byagulibwa bulungi era nga nannyinibyo abyagala, naye nga byaggwaako era nga tebikyakola makulu! Bibeeramu mu nnyumba naye nga nnyinibyo takyalina budde bwabyo; tojjukira mukama byagamba Samwiiri ku bya Sawulo?

I Samuel 16:1—

And meet for the Master's use. Fit to be employed by the Lord Jesus in promoting his work on earth.

John 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (NKJV)

**John 15: 2. Every branch in me.** Every one that is a true follower of me, that is united to me by faith, and that **truly** derives grace and strength from me, as the branch does from the vine. The word branch includes all the smallest vines that shoot out from the parent stalk. Jesus here says that he **sustains the same relation** to his disciples that a parent stalk does to the branches; but this does not mean any physical or incomprehensible union.

It is a union formed by believing on him; resulting from **our feeling** our **dependence on him** and **our need of him**; from embracing him as **our Saviour, Redeemer, and Friend**. We become united to him in all **our interests**, and have **common feelings, common desires**, and a **common destiny** with him. We seek the **same objects**, are willing to **encounter the same trials, contempt, persecution**, and **want**, and are desirous that **his God shall be ours**, and his **eternal abode (Residence) ours**.

It is a **union of friendship, of love**, and **of dependence**; a **union of weakness with strength**; of **imperfection with perfection**; of a **dying nature with a living Saviour**; of **a lost sinner with an unchanging Friend and Redeemer**.

**That bears not fruit.**

You very well remember the other vessels or the house holds which are of no value? Jesus refers to them as branches that bears no fruit. The same way the vinedresser will remove all branches that are dead or that bear no fruit, so will God take from his church all professed Christians who give no evidence by their lives that they are truly united to the Lord Jesus.

**He taketh away.** The vine-dresser cuts it off. God removes such in various ways:

Let's take a look at some ways God uses to cut us off His useful people/children: -

- 1st. By the **discipline** of the church.
- 2nd. By suffering them to fall into temptation.
- 3rd. By persecution and tribulation (Matt. 13:21,22);
- 4th. By death, for God has power thus at any moment to remove unprofitable branches from the church.

**Every branch that bears fruit.** That is, all **true Christians**, for all such bear fruit. To bear fruit is to show by our lives that we are **under the influence of the salvation of Christ**, and that the salvation produces in us its **appropriate effects**,

Galatians 5:22—23; Matt. 7:16

It is also to live so as to **be useful to others**. (Like a vessel in a house is not bought to be useful to its own but to benefit others, so you too are called to the family of God to be

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**useful to others)** As a vineyard is worthless unless it bears fruit that may promote the happiness or subsistence of man, so the Christian principle would be worthless unless Christians should live so that others may be made holy and happy by their example and labors, and so that the world may be brought to the cross of the Saviour.

**He removes it.** Or rather he prunes it, or cleanses it by pruning.

**God purifies all true Christians/(children) so that they may be more useful.** He takes away that which **hindered their usefulness; teaches them; quickens them; revives them;** makes them **purier in motive and in life.** This he does by the **regular influences of his Spirit** in **sanctifying them, purifying their motives,** teaching them the **beauty of holiness,** and encouraging them to **devote themselves more to him.**

He does it by **taking away what opposes their usefulness,**

**So, God often takes away the property of his people, their children, which have turned into idols.** He removes the **objects which bind their affections** (*likings, love*), and which **render them inactive.** He takes away the **things around man,** as he did the valued gourds of Jonah (Joh 4:5-11), so that he may **feel his dependence,** and live more to the honor of God, and bring forth more proof of humble and active piety.

What do you fill in your heart?

Are you fruitful or you deserve to be cut off?

Let us check ourselves and pray to our father.