

QUESTION: Why Am I a Son, When I'm a Woman?

One thing we fail to realise when we read the NT is that it was written to believers in the 1st century. It was written in their languages, Hebrew and Koine Greek, using grammar and structures they were well familiar with. We get ourselves into all sorts of trouble when we try to understand much of it with a 21st century mindset. This is why you struggle with being called a son.

One thing that's always used in the communication of civilizations is picture language. These are words and expressions which convey specific meanings to the intended audiences. Those outside of that culture (and even outside of a sub-culture) miss what they are saying, because they aren't *au fait* with the idioms that they are listening to or reading.

Sonship is relational picture language, not reality – you're not male. A similar use of picture language occurs in our society, when we use metaphors to describe relationships. We can describe a relationship as red hot, explosive, or tumultuous, to name just a few. We can even say a relationship sank. These metaphors create meaning in our mind, which is more accurate and simpler to comprehend, than highly descriptive, but complex words.

Picture language is used very much in the Bible, especially in the OT books of prophecy and in the parables that Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom. Also in scripture, picture language is used to describe relationships. For example: God referred to himself is Israel's husband¹ and the nation as a whore/harlot² when they chased after false gods. Was he actually the nation's husband? No. Was Israel prostituting itself? No, they were 'playing the whore', by being unfaithful through spiritual harlotry. In Revelation there's a significant woman, dressed in purple, scarlet and jewellery, who sat on a scarlet beast.³ That was picture language of a city,⁴ not a real person in the 1st century. All through John's vision there were symbolic pictures, which were metaphors used to pass on a secret message to the readers of his time.

Jesus' parable of king's wedding, as well as the prodigal son, describe relationships, not physical reality. The same goes for the parable of the bridegroom and also of the 10 virgins, as is the marriage supper of the Lamb. They are picture language of King Jesus and his bride, the worldwide *ekklesia*. We don't actually marry Jesus, like some Christian denominations have it. We are in an intimate relationship with him, just like a genuine, close-knit, happily married husband and wife.

Theologians have taught us about a lot of these idioms, but others they haven't. In the case of "son", we have the mistake of thinking its use in scripture is misogynistic. If that's the case, are men who are part of "the Bride of Christ", women? No. The Bride describes the type of relation where there's oneness between us and Jesus.

Get the picture? (Excuse the pun)

Now, to answer your question. Although you are a woman, in picture language, you're Father's son, his adopted son. That's because he wants that type of relationship with you.

Prior to the current politically correct (PC) times, and going back to time immemorial, sons worked alongside their fathers in their family business. This was a training process for the boy, but it was more in the form of an apprenticeship where they were trained, coached and overseen. They were given increasing responsibility as they progressed, until eventually as a man, they became part of the business.

During the apprenticeship, a special bond formed between father and son that can only be understood by someone who's experienced it. That bond is different to a father's relationship with his daughter, and very,

1 – Hosea 2:2, 7, 16

2 – Hosea 6:10

3 – Revelation 17:3-4

4 – Revelation 18:16

very different to the relationship between mother and daughter. This type of father/son relationship is the relationship Father (and Son) want us to have, which is why we are all called sons, not sons and daughters.

Four other points about sons in a working relationship with their fathers:

- Fathers and sons bond as they work together
- Bonded fathers and sons share common dreams and goals
- Sons identify with their role in their work (the business) and it becomes their identity
- Emotions, with hurts and woundedness, doesn't come into a son's way of life

One important father-son concept that we need to know about is the critically important function of father's releasing their sons to fulfil their role in society, as well as in their business together. This is a vital component of family life on Earth, and it's the same in the Kingdom. It's not the church organisation or church leaders who release us into our spiritual assignments, it's Father. That's because our work is intended to be Kingdom assignments, not ministry or anything of that nature. Father trains us sons to be ready for our life assignments, then tells us when we're ready, and opens doors for us to enter into them. We'll never be in doubt when we're 'off and running' if we're listening to him all of the time.

You see, when we came into the Kingdom, we weren't to become religious people, and we don't do service in a human-designed way. Instead we are co-workers in the Kingdom, working with our King to see Father's plans implemented on the Earth. This is our role in the Kingdom. It's what we were created to do, as planet managers and his earthly governing body.

The characteristics I've described in this article are the characteristics we are to develop in our lives as we work in partnership with our King, while being about Father's business as sons. Sons are who we are in the way we operate, and it's sonship we need to focus on, not feminine rights or political correctness. In fact, it's an honour to be know by Father as his son.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)