

# Preparation for Sonship

- How can we be prepared for sonship?
- Preparation with help from tutors
- Preparation through entering rest
- Preparation through soul transformation at different levels
- Deconstruction and renewal of the mind

# Preparation for Sonship

- Intimacy with the Father is the best preparation for sonship as you can't be a son without a father
- Any mindsets, doctrines, theology or beliefs that distort the nature of God as father and the relationship we have with Him as sons must be deconstructed and renewed

# Preparation for Sonship

- Beliefs that are based in old covenant thinking will create fear, duty, obligation through the need to obey the law
- Law based mindsets often create barriers to intimacy because of the wrong sort of fear of God and will affect our sonship relationship

# Preparation for Sonship

- My false images of God were created by the religious systems that programmed me through their theology and doctrines
- There were 9 pillars that held up this framework of programming in my mind
- Those beliefs caused confirmational bias whenever I tried to interpret experiences or the Bible they were my assumptions



# Preparation for Sonship

- Evangelicalism
- Sola Scriptura
- Greek thought
- Hebrew thought
- Augustinianism
- Protestantism
- Scientific rationalism
- Cultural relativism
- Humanism



Pillar Name

Mind-set

Belief System

Influence

Lies Deception

Truth





# Preparation for Sonship

- Deconstructing the mind will involve religious deprogramming and that will challenge our theology and doctrines
- Face to face encounters that unveil the true nature of God will inevitably create cognitive dissonance
- Discovering the true reality of who God is by experience will change us

# Preparation for Sonship

- As God began the deconstruction process it inevitably changed how I saw the Bible and its role in my life
- As the pillars of evangelicalism and sola scriptura were removed so did my reliance on the English translations of the Bible and the view that the Bible was the word of God

# Preparation for Sonship

- I discovered that God does not need a book to mediate between Himself and man. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man
- No mediatorial religious coverings are necessary including priests or rabbis
- God does not want to primarily speak to us through the Bible He wants a face to face relationship

# Preparation for Sonship

- Ask yourselves the following questions.
- What do I use the Bible for?
- Is the Bible what I use for the wisdom to make decisions?
- Do I use the Bible as a plumb line to decide truth and error?
- Do I expect God to speak to me primarily through the Bible?

# Preparation for Sonship

- When the Protestantism, Greek and Hebrew thinking pillars were removed my understanding of the Bible's purpose, inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility were deconstructed
- Our understanding of the Bible's purpose will affect our use and interpretation of it

# Preparation for Sonship

- I believe that God does inspire writings and speech but they are delivered through fallible people
- The writings that God inspired in their original form and language were accurately recorded but are not all the truth
- The Bible includes many opinions of men some are false and some lies

# Preparation for Sonship

- Jer 8:8 “How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? but behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.
- What was changed or wrongly written?
- What could be lies or deceptions that we currently believe to be true?
- Torah, law, rabbinical tradition?

# Preparation for Sonship

- If that is true of the Hebrew writings we call the old testament and God allowed it then what about what we call the new testament
- How many alterations were made by the scribes who translated it?
- Were they mistakes or deliberate alterations to explain or deceive



# Preparation for Sonship

- As we do not have any original new testament manuscripts or copies or even copies of copies how do we know what the writers actually meant
- The earliest complete copy is the the Codex Sinaiticus dated around the 4<sup>th</sup> century ad

# Preparation for Sonship

- The Codex Sinaiticus is a 4th century handwritten parchment manuscript containing the Septuagint and New Testament in Greek. Throughout the text are thousands of annotations and corrections, added from the codex's drafting in the 4th century to as late as the 12th century

# Preparation for Sonship

- The Greek Septuagint in the Codex includes books not found in the Hebrew Bible and regarded in the Protestant tradition as apocryphal, such as 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, 1 & 4 Maccabees, Wisdom and Sirach.
- Appended to the New Testament are the Epistle of Barnabas and 'The Shepherd' of Hermas.

# Preparation for Sonship

- The transcription shows just how common these corrections are.
- They range in date from those made by the original scribes in the fourth century to ones made in the twelfth century. They range from the alteration of a single letter to the insertion of whole sentences.

# Preparation for Sonship

- When we see the phrases the word of God or scripture written or hear it mentioned are we conditioned into thinking it refers to our current version of the Bible?
- Actually it does not as it is mostly referring to the personal interactive conversations that God had with people

# Preparation for Sonship

- Sometimes the phrase in OT may refer to the Torah or a prophet's written words
- Sometimes it is referring to spoken words that God said to people
- In the NT the phrase is primarily referring to the Living word - Jesus
- Context tells us what it means but remember there was no official Bible until 387AD so it could not mean that

# Preparation for Sonship

- Psa 119:105 Your **word** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- Debar = speech or spoken word
- Matt 4:4 “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every **word** that proceeds out of the mouth of God, some may have been recorded
- It is not written that we should live by the written words of God alone

# Preparation for Sonship

- Who decided what was included in the Bible and what were their motives?
- Who agreed that the canon of scripture was to be completed?
- Did God inspire people to form a closed canon of scripture?
- Why are some books (apocryphal) in some Bibles but not others?



# Preparation for Sonship

- Constantine, "issued a decree in 325 AD commanding all presbyters and their subordinates. They were instructed to bring with them the testimonies they orated "bound in leather" for protection during the long journey, and surrender them to Constantine upon arrival in Nicaea

# Preparation for Sonship

- Their writings totalled "in all, two thousand two hundred and thirty-one scrolls together with a record of the doctrines orated by them" (Life of Constantine)
- He then ordered all earlier presbyterial manuscripts and the records of the council "burnt"

# Preparation for Sonship

- With his instructions fulfilled of merging everything together, Constantine then decreed that the New Testimonies would thereafter be called the "word of the Roman Saviour God" and official to all presbyters sermonising in the Roman Empire. (Life of Constantine, vol. iii, p. 29)

# Preparation for Sonship

- Those collected writings that Constantine formed were what they used in the Council of Carthage in 387AD to form the canon of scripture
- They included 14 apocryphal books that are now excluded from the Protestant Bibles

# Preparation for Sonship

- Primarily the letters that we now call the new testament were written to those going through the transition from old to new covenant from either a Hebrew or Gentile background
- It is the cultural context and audience that is key to knowing if it is directly speaking to us today or not

# Preparation for Sonship

- There are many principles that are relevant irrespective of the age you live in
- But many of the issues that are addressed are not relevant to us today and should not be transposed e.g. idol meat, head coverings and silent women

# Preparation for Sonship

- God has continued to speak to each subsequent generation directly and through individual discipleship relationships
- Each generation should have a progressively revealed set of writings of their own inspired by the Living Word of God through the Spirit of Truth

# Preparation for Sonship

- Restricting the scriptures to a completed book has limited people's expectations concerning the possibility of God speaking to them and narrowed the way that He can speak to them
- My sheep hear My voice is not restricted to the first century AD



# Preparation for Sonship

- The audience was different for each letter or gospel written and that must be taken into consideration when reading or trying to understand it
- E.g. Matthew's gospel had a clear Hebrew audience and John's gospel was more directed towards the disciples of Jesus then and now

# Preparation for Sonship

- John 16:12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

# Preparation for Sonship

- John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.
- This truth is the key to progressive revelation

# Preparation for Sonship

- Does that mean the Bible has no value for us today?
- Of course not we can discover many things on our journey through the Bible but it is not the primary way God wants to speak to us on a daily basis

# Preparation for Sonship

- God never intended us to know Him through books but by encounters
- God never said believe by reading a book. No one in the Bible itself met God by reading a book.
- You can only really know God by experience, just as the stories in the Bible itself testify.

# Preparation for Sonship

- Is the Bible the only source of revelation written or otherwise that God uses today?
- Is God continuing to give progressive revelation by speaking to us today because we are now able to bear it?

# Preparation for Sonship

- Is the Bible a manual for living or an introduction to a living loving relationship with Jesus the living word of God?
- Is everything recorded in the Bible inspired by God?
- Is all of the Bible inerrant and infallible as we have been told?

# Preparation for Sonship

- Challenging the sacred cow of the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible will probably cause offence to many
- I do not intend to offend but I do want to challenge our view of the Bible as the “word of God” because Jesus is the true Word who became flesh and is God



# Preparation for Sonship

- 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- The translators can subtly change the emphasis and meaning by adding, changing or removing some words

# Preparation for Sonship

- 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture (writings) is inspired by God and profitable for (with pros face to face) teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- 2 Tim 3:16 every writing God-breathed, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for setting aright, for instruction that [is] in righteousness, YLT

# Preparation for Sonship

- What it actually says is every writing that God inspires or breathes is useful
- What it does not say is everything we think as scripture is God inspired
- That includes the Bible and any other “holy books”
- They may contain some truth but only that truth is inspired not everything

# Preparation for Sonship

- How do we tell what is or what is not inspired in scriptures or writings?
- John 16:12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; ... 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

# Preparation for Sonship

- 2 Timothy was written approx. in AD 63-65 long before the Canon of scripture was agreed by bishops in Carthage in AD 397
- What were the scriptures or writings that it refers to?
- The old testament only or other writings that God inspired?

# Preparation for Sonship

- What 2 Tim 3:16 does not say is that the Bible or all scripture or writings are inerrant, infallible and perfect
- Does it mean that God inspired people to write or that all that they wrote is inspired?
- Being inspired to write does not mean dictated in perfect detail

# Preparation for Sonship

- Only Jesus is the actual Word of God the Bible is a library of books that point us to a person Jesus the living Word
- 2 Tim 3:16 says that God inspired writings are useful, beneficial or profitable but not infallible or inerrant

# Preparation for Sonship

- Does that mean that all scriptures from all religions are the truth?
- Of course not but Jesus may have inspired some truth in them to reveal the way to the Truth Jesus Himself
- Regardless a relationship with the person of Jesus is the only way to the Father



# Preparation for Sonship

- So many of my beliefs were based around the Bible and its interpretation
- Being brought up in the Bible Christian Methodist Church and then the Brethren assembly the major influence was evangelicalism
- Usually traced back to 1738 with various streams contributing to its foundation

# Preparation for Sonship

- Methodists, Moravians, Lutherans etc.
- Evangelicalism is a Protestant movement embraced within a variety of Christian denominations, based on the idea that religious salvation can be achieved through adherence to **the word of God** as delivered through **the Bible**.

# Preparation for Sonship

- Evangelical Christians believe in the Bible as God's inspired word to humankind, perfect in truth in the **original text**. It is the "final authority in all matters of doctrine and faith — above all human authority,"
- The Bible has been venerated by some to such an extent as to become equal with the person of God

# Preparation for Sonship

- Evangelicalism teaches that the Bible does not merely contain the word of God, but every word of it is the word of God.
- Scripture, regarded as the word of God, carries the full authority of God in evangelicalism: every single statement of the Bible calls for instant, unqualified and unrestricted acceptance.

# Preparation for Sonship

- The Bible is not actually the word of God or God's word it is a library of books written by various people
- The Bible does contain some words that God spoke and some He inspired
- The Bible contains some words attributed to God that He didn't speak
- Jesus is the only living Word of God

# Preparation for Sonship

- Sola scriptura (Latin: by scripture alone) is a theological doctrine held by Christian denominations that the Christian scriptures are the sole infallible rule of faith and practice.
- Ironically where is that in the Bible?
- It is not there because sola scriptura is a man made doctrine

# Preparation for Sonship

- Church councils, preachers, Bible commentators, private revelation, or even a message allegedly from an angel or an apostle are not an original authority alongside the Bible in the doctrine of sola scriptura
- It is only the Bible that we can trust as the truth. - Is that actually true? **No**

# Preparation for Sonship

- Some evangelical and Baptist denominations state the doctrine of sola scriptura more strongly: scripture is self-authenticating, clear to the rational reader, its own interpreter ("Scripture interprets Scripture"), and sufficient of itself to be the final authority of Christian doctrine.



# Preparation for Sonship

- By contrast, today Anglicanism and Methodism, also considered forms of Protestantism, uphold the doctrine of prima scriptura, with scripture being illumined by tradition, reason, and in Methodism, experience as well
- But the Bible is still the primary source of truth rather than Jesus the Truth

# Preparation for Sonship

- Some sola scriptura assumptions:
- Every doctrine of the Bible is the teaching of God and therefore requires full agreement.
- Every promise of the Bible calls for unshakable trust in its fulfilment
- Every command of the Bible is the directive of God Himself and therefore demands willing observance.

# Preparation for Sonship

- The primary Catholic argument against sola scriptura is that the Bible does not explicitly teach sola scriptura.
- Catholics argue that the Bible nowhere states that it is the only authoritative guide for faith and practice.

# Preparation for Sonship

- Evangelical response to this Catholic thought:
- While this is true, they fail to recognize a crucially important issue. We know that the Bible is the word of God. The Bible declares itself to be God-breathed, inerrant, and authoritative. – **actually it does not**

# Preparation for Sonship

- Sola scriptura is not as much of an argument against tradition as it is an argument against unbiblical, extra-biblical and/or anti-biblical doctrines as seen from a protestant or evangelical perspective
- Is God and our experience of God to be limited to only what the Bible speaks of?
  - **No**

# Preparation for Sonship

- The only way to know for sure what God expects of us is to stay true to what we know He has revealed - the Bible! - **not true**
- We can know, beyond the shadow of any doubt, that scripture is true, authoritative, and reliable. **Can we?**
- Is that really true is the source of truth only to be found in a book? **No**

# Preparation for Sonship

- Where does a personal relationship with the Truth fit in?
- Has God stopped speaking? **No**
- Are God's words complete? **No**
- Does God's speaking directly to you today carry as much authority as what we call the Bible? **Yes**

# Preparation for Sonship

- Is revelation progressive or fixed?
- Is it possible that God never intended to limit revelation of who He is to the books of the old and new testaments?
- Did God intend the Bible to “close” or is it possible that revelation today can add to an insight in scripture?



# Preparation for Sonship

- The Mirror and the Passion Bible versions are inspired to restore relationship in love and are an expression of love's light that has My grace at its centre but don't let them become another substitute for true relationship.

# Preparation for Sonship

- Son you have seen how easy it is to build an idol out of experience to lean to your own understanding and create another belief system out of the mystery of subjective experience that becomes the basis your own objective DIY-LAW based system.

# Preparation for Sonship

- Everything is designed to come from a day to day continuous face to face relationship but nothing of eternal value will come from leaning to our own understanding.
- New revelation of an infinite God is possible every day

# Preparation for Sonship

- Ensure engaging God is what you are inspiring not engaging a programme or another set of law based principles that becomes another substitute for intimate relationship with Me

# Preparation for Sonship

- Son My heart for all My children is for them to know the true reality of who they are as sons of the living God and heirs of creation.
- I desire that each will know their true identity within My name and their true authority positioned within the tree of life.

# Preparation for Sonship

- I would encourage you to ask the living Word of God Jesus to give you a true revelation of Himself as the truth and deconstruct any pillars of sola scriptura from your mind
- Invite the truth Jesus to deconstruct any lies you believe about the Bible, God and yourself







