

# Revealing the sons of God

Identity Part 4

We are all on a journey from slavery to sonship, and those two conditions are very different. Slavery breeds a poverty spirit, fear and lack of identity; sonship breeds faith, identity, resources and responsibility.

The root issues of how we think are in our hearts, not our heads. To use a computer analogy, the heart is like the hard drive and the head is like the Random Access Memory (RAM): things get loaded from our heart into our conscious thinking and then we act out of them.



Our characteristics and behaviour will help us identify to what extent we are acting out of a spirit of slavery and to what extent out of a spirit of sonship. Almost none of us will fall completely into one category or the other. A spirit of slavery is often the product of poor nurture, unhealed wounds and brokenness in our own lives, but it can also be generational: particular ways of thinking handed down to us from previous generations.

In a checklist we are going to look at a number of areas. It's important to be honest with ourselves, not asking 'how *ought* I to think?' but 'how *do* I in fact think?' And please, let's use this as a tool to assess our own condition, not to label or judge anyone else!

In the tables below, you will see a category in the centre column, and on either side of it, the characteristics typical of slaves and sons. You can [download these tables as a PDF file](#) to save or print if you wish.

Heart of a Slave/Orphan	Category	Heart of a son
See God as Master	IMAGE OF GOD	See God as a loving Father
Independent / Self-reliant	DEPENDENCY	Interdependent / Acknowledges Need
Live by the Love of Law	THEOLOGY	Live by the Law of Love
Insecure / Lack peace	SECURITY	Rest and Peace
Strive for the praise, approval, and acceptance of man	NEED FOR APPROVAL	Totally accepted in God's love and justified by grace
A need for personal achievement as you seek to impress God and others, or no motivation to serve at all	MOTIVE FOR SERVICE	Service that is motivated by a deep gratitude for being unconditionally loved and accepted by God
Duty and earning God's favour or no motivation at all	MOTIVE BEHIND CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES	Pleasure and delight
"Must" be holy to have God's favour, thus increasing a sense of shame and guilt	MOTIVE FOR PURITY	"Want to" be holy; do not want anything to hinder intimate relationship with God

Heart of a Slave/Orphan	Category	Heart of a son
Self-rejection from comparing yourself to others	SELF-IMAGE	Positive and affirmed because you know you have such value to God
Seek comfort in counterfeit affections: addictions, compulsions, escapism, busyness hyper-religious activity	SOURCE OF COMFORT	Seek times of quietness and solitude to rest in the Father's presence and love
Competition, rivalry, and jealousy toward others' success and position	PEER RELATIONSHIPS	Humility and unity as you value others and are able to rejoice in their blessings and success
Accusation and exposure in order to make yourself look good by making others look bad	HANDLING OTHERS' FAULTS	Love covers as you seek to restore others in a spirit of love and gentleness
See authority as a source of pain; distrustful toward them and lack a heart attitude of submission	VIEW OF AUTHORITY	Respectful, honouring; you see them as ministers of God for good in your life
Difficulty receiving admonition; you must be right so you easily get your feelings hurt and close your spirit to discipline	VIEW OF ADMONITION	See the receiving of admonition as a blessing and need in your life so that your faults and weaknesses are exposed and put to death

Heart of a Slave/Orphan	Category	Heart of a son
Guarded and conditional; based upon others' performance as you seek to get your own needs met	EXPRESSION OF LOVE	Open, patient, and affectionate as you lay your life and agendas down in order to meet the needs of others
Conditional and distant	SENSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE	Close and intimate
Bondage	CONDITION	Liberty
Feel like a servant/slave	POSITION	Feel like a son/daughter
Spiritual ambition; the earnest desire for some spiritual achievement and distinction and the willingness to strive for it; a desire to be seen and counted among the mature	VISION	To daily experience the Father's unconditional love and acceptance and then be sent as a representative of His love to family and others.
Fight for what you can get!	FUTURE	Sonship releases your inheritance!

Category	A Slave	A Son
<b>The Response to Pain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Runs from pain</li> <li>- Seeks to avoid problems</li> <li>- Sees the cost of failure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Embraces pain strategically</li> <li>- Sees opportunities in problems</li> <li>- Sees the benefit of failure</li> </ul>
<b>The Perspective on Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obeys orders</li> <li>- Looks at the right way to do a job</li> <li>- Consider consequences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solves problems</li> <li>- Looks for a better way to do a job</li> <li>- Sees possibilities</li> </ul>
<b>The Use of Resource</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sees cost</li> <li>- Wants to receive from those who have</li> <li>- Cares for himself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sees value</li> <li>- Wants to know how they got there</li> <li>- Understands social responsibility</li> </ul>
<b>The Nature of Their Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Talks about self</li> <li>- Expects more from others than from self</li> <li>- Extends honour upwards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Talks about his team</li> <li>- Personally raises the bar</li> <li>- Extends honour downwards</li> </ul>
<b>The View of the Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looks for immediate gain</li> <li>- Seeks comfort</li> <li>- Wants to be liked now</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sows into the future</li> <li>- Seeks fulfilment</li> <li>- Will let history be his judge</li> </ul>
<b>The Exercise of Power</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is disloyal when he succeeds</li> <li>- Gives favours</li> <li>- Seeks supernatural for self</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiates sharing success</li> <li>- Shows favour</li> <li>- Uses the supernatural for others</li> </ul>



Use these checklists to ask yourself: “do I have more thinking on the left side as a slave or more on the right side as a son?” Then you will get an idea of where you are on this journey. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction, so that you can change.

If you recognise demonic strongholds in your thinking, see it not as a criticism but as an opportunity to be transformed. Those strongholds are defended and empowered by familiar spirits – spirits that are familiar with your mind-sets, your patterns and ways of thinking – and they constantly seek to ensure that you continue to think that way. Continuing in that way of thinking only results in continuing to demonstrate the same patterns of behaviour, or worse, a downward spiral that leads to an orphan heart, shaping us and blocking our destiny.

But God wants to do something about it. He is only showing you any slave-mentality you may have so that He can free you from it and enable you to think and act more and more like a son. Access to heaven and heaven’s blessing, heaven’s authority and heaven’s power all come from knowing who we are as sons.

In the heavenly realms we have places of authority that God has destined for us: mountains with thrones that God is calling us to possess. We can only possess them when we come into maturity (see Gal 4).

What do we do?

When we recognise that our mindset is not right, we:

- forgive and release those whose words and deeds have resulted in us being the way we are. We don’t rationalise it away. We see that it happened and had an effect on us, and forgive and release them.
- own the way of thinking or the behaviour. We don’t make excuses for it, it is sin to think like a slave when God has said you are a son, and if you don’t treat it as sin you will most likely carry on and be comfortable with thinking that way. Confess it, renounce it, and repent of it (turn from it and turn to the truth). Take it to the courts, if you know how to do that, and get divorce papers which enforce separation from that way of thinking and behaviour.
- meditate on the truth of God’s love for us and his acceptance of us. Meditate on the destiny He has for us. Get these things into our spirit by experience and encounter so that they become the basis of how we live. This is not an instant fix – it takes time.
- attack the familiar spirits. Don’t let them lie to us and whisper into our minds. Take captive every thought. Deal with the thoughts that come, don’t entertain them and allow them to take root. Challenge them! We must be very careful about what is coming out of our mouth, not saying negative things that line up with the spirit of slavery. Speak out the truth.

- get help if we need to. If we cannot deal with familiar spirits ourselves, we enlist the help of someone else who can minister deliverance to us. We may need healing from a wounded heart, and someone to minister that healing if we are not receiving it on our own.

Then we can be restored, and come back into a place of peace and rest, knowing who we are as children of God, knowing God's love.

He really wants us to know our identity as His sons, and to renounce our slavery and orphan mentalities. He wants us to receive our security and acceptance from Him. Then we will be manifested as sons on the earth, to bring the whole of creation back into alignment with God's eternal intentions before Satan fell.

*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God (Romans 8:19).*

That's us!