



# SERMON NOTES

US N<sup>o</sup>. 158

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Title: We are not orphans

1. Identifying the orphan mentality or spirit in our lives. An orphan spirit haunts a majority of people who have not yet experienced the God of the scriptures, still unable to taste His sacrificial love that many soon find out has no strings attached. An orphan spirit has a sense of abandonment, loneliness, alienation and isolation.
  - a. *"The orphan spirit causes one to live life as if he does not have a safe and secure place in the Father's heart. He feels he has no place of affirmation, protection, comfort, belonging, or affection. Self-oriented, lonely, and inwardly isolated, he has no one from whom to draw Godly inheritance. Therefore, he has to strive, achieve, compete, and earn everything he gets in life. It easily leads to a life of anxiety, fears, and frustration."* – Jack Frost
  - b. Symptoms of an orphan spirit
    - i. Self-provision
    - ii. Self-protection
    - iii. Trouble bonding with others.
    - iv. Self-referential frame of mind.
    - v. Jealousy of what others have.
    - vi. Always fighting for your rights.
    - vii. Fearful, lonely and feel isolated
    - viii. Seeing God as being harsh or cruel.
    - ix. Always defensive.
    - x. Feel like on the outside looking in.
    - xi. Feel neglected by God and the Church.
    - xii. Fearful of what others may see in you.
    - xiii. Performance oriented.
    - xiv. Fellowship with God is unstable.
    - xv. Depressed and see no way out.
    - xvi. Feel unworthy to ask God for anything.
    - xvii. Have difficulty receiving and giving love.
    - xviii. Not mutual relationship oriented.
  - c. Causes
    - i. Ever since Adam and Eve were alienated from God the Father in the Garden of Eden, an orphan spirit has permeated the earth, causing untold damage.
    - ii. Abandonment can be deep seated in the identity and not often discerned through rational thought processes.
      1. *"Simple"* direct abandonment by parents.
      2. Death of a parent.
      3. Divorce, no matter how *"good"* it may be, the split is interpreted often as abandonment.
      4. Latch-key kids who are left to their own devices.
      5. Disease or drugs on part of parents.
      6. Rejection; even just being the *"caboose"* child.
    - iii. Lack of understanding of being a covenant people of God, then exacerbated by our own flesh and satanic influence.
  - d. Examples:

- i. A child never learned the proper role of faith in trusting someone else to provide food, shelter, and other necessities. Instead they prematurely take on that responsibility for themselves and establish ways of thinking and behaving to deal with it. If that child prematurely takes on responsibility for protecting himself he will be reluctant to transfer that responsibility to another later in life. A Christian with an orphan mentality has trouble trusting God to be the source of provision and protection. He has practical faith struggles because he has no positive experience with trusting. This often leads to a poverty mentality, which is a belief that resources are limited and must be carefully guarded, even hoarded.
- ii. The orphan personality has trouble bonding with others. It is hard to offer unconditional love to another when you have not received it. It is hard to extend trust to someone when you have had to be self-reliant all your life. Take a nice, gentle and polite man but he is a loner and socially self-absorbed. He does not concern himself with the needs or comforts of others, but is always keenly aware of his own. It is not that he intends harm or ill will toward anyone. It's just that it doesn't cross his mind. He has an orphan mentality, and all his ability is expended on self-care. Relationships suffer when people have an orphan mentality. It is difficult to be in a reciprocal relationship with someone like that. There is no give-and-take. Everything is one-sided because of the lack of emotional development. That is not to say people with an orphan personality are without relationships. They can be quite affable and charming. However, the mutuality of true relationship is limited. In the best cases there is interaction between two individuals, but in the worst cases, the orphan personality becomes a drain on others in a constant demand to fill their needs.
- iii. Habits may cause us to search for acceptance, significance, and identity in all the wrong places. We may seek the approval and praise of man. We may feel a deep need to be recognized for our service, for the things we do. We may have critical spirits and place blame on others. We may be jealous of others. We may be strong Believers with a heart for serving Him, yet our motives are from the heart of an orphan instead of from the heart of sonship.

## 2. Contrasting the orphan and sonship mentalities

- a. The orphan spirit operates out of insecurity and jealousy. The spirit of sonship functions out of love and acceptance.
- b. The orphan spirit is jealous of the success of his brothers. The mature son is committed to the success of his brothers.
- c. The orphan spirit serves God to earn the Father's love. The mature son serves God out of a sense of divine acceptance and favor.
- d. The orphan spirit tries to medicate its deep internal alienation through physical stimulation. The mature son walks in the joy and presence of the Lord for comfort.
- e. The orphan spirit is driven by the need for success. The Spirit leads the mature son into his calling and mission.
- f. The orphan spirit uses people as objects to fulfill goals. Mature sons serve people to bless the kingdom.

- g. The orphan spirit has anger and fits of rage. The spirit of sonship rests in the Father's ability to control and guide the future.
  - h. The orphan spirit is always in competition with others. The spirit of sonship is always blessing others.
  - i. The orphan spirit lacks self-esteem. The spirit of sonship walks in the love and acceptance of Father God.
  - j. The orphan spirit receives its primary identity through material possessions, physical appearance and activities. The spirit of sonship is grounded in sonship and the Father's affirmation.
3. As believers, we must learn to understand our true identity as sons and daughters of God. It is not accidental that there are many, many references to God the Father in the Scriptures. There exists a covenant where those who were once not a people become a people, those who were orphans in bondage of fear become sons and daughters of the living, sovereign Father of creation.
- a. The covenant of Christ's blood makes us children of God.
    - i. Hos. 2:23, *"Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' and they shall say, 'You are my God!'"*
    - ii. Heb. 10:19-20, *"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh..."*
    - iii. Jn. 14:16-18, *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."*
    - iv. Rom. 8:15-17, *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."*
    - v. Ps. 27:10, *"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me."*
    - vi. Gal. 4:6-7, *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*
  - b. The Father's promises are sure
    - i. Num. 23:19, *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*
    - ii. 2 Cor. 1:20, *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."*
    - iii. Luke 12:32, *"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

- iv. Zeph. 3:17, *“The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”*
  - c. Recognize our orphan spirit and acknowledge our need to draw near to Father
    - i. Rom. 12:2-3, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”*
4. Take-aways
- a. An orphan spirit has a sense of abandonment, loneliness, alienation and isolation.
  - b. We are not self-made
  - c. The covenant of God through the blood and body of Jesus the Christ.
  - d. We may now call the Creator God – Father
  - e. Be renewed and transformed
  - f. We are no longer orphans; we’ve been adopted into the family of God. The proof is the presence of the Spirit of Christ dwelling in our lives and changing us into His image – hour by hour and day by day – until He’s done.

Muslims have 99 names for god, not one is Father. The heirs of Ishmael have an orphan spirit.

2 Tim. 1:7, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*