

RISE UP!

Session 3

Isaiah 60:1-2

1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

In this session I want to examine a fact that is inextricably connected to our identity. Just as important as knowing who you are is the understanding of whose you are. Just as your natural identity is linked to your genealogy, your spiritual identity is interconnected with whom you belong. So in this session we are going to explore the “concept of belonging.”

1. You were once considered a nonentity

There was a time when spiritually...you had no status. It was almost as if you did not exist.

Ephesians 2:11-13

Aliens: apallotrioo – to be a non-participant.

Strangers: xenos – foreigner, literally; alien.

1Peter 2:9-10

2. The truth of your origin

Romans 8:14-16

A. Your original father

John 8:44

1 John 3:7-10

B. His original parental rights

The “spirit of bondage” explained.

Patria Potestas (Latin: “power of a father”).

In Roman family law, power that the male head of a family exercised over his children and his more remote descendants in the male line, whatever their age, as well as over those brought into the family by adoption.

Satan is not a **loving** father...he is an evil and **vengeful** father who literally **despises** his spiritual offspring.

C. He was/is an unfit father

1 John 2:1-2

Let us reexamine His indictment against Satan:

John 8:44

In that verse Jesus pronounced Satan unfit on several grounds. Let me delineate them.

1) Satan is unfit on moral grounds...he makes his children fulfill **his** lusts!

2) Satan is unfit on legal grounds...he is a murderer!

3) Satan is unfit on the grounds of humanity...he hates and enslaves his children.

4) Satan is unfit on the grounds that he is a liar...and he obtained humanity by larceny and deceit!

3 The blessing of Adoption!

Ephesians 1:3-5

A. Paul’s concept of adoption

Huiothesia: “placing as a son” (an adult son).

This was a legal term that articulated the process by which a man brought another person into his family. This process endowed the person who was brought into the family with all the status and privileges of a biological son or daughter.

B. The differences between Roman Law and us

1) In Roman law...the natural father had to either be dead...or be willing to surrender all parental rights and privileges.

2) Part of the process of Roman adoption was a “fictitious sale” of the son.

This was not the case with God. There was no fictitious sale...it was real and absolute!

1 Corinthians 6:20

1 Peter 1:18-19

4 The truth of spiritual adoption

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

5 You still have a choice

A. The truth is you are free.

Galatians 5:1

B. You are still going to serve someone

Romans 6:15-16

Carnal saints continue to yield themselves to their fleshly desires...or as Paul said, sin.

But as we become more spiritual...our choices become more spiritual.

Romans 6:17-18

C. In light of all that God has done for you

Romans 12:1