

Children of God

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1

We are so blessed that we are the “children of God.” John reminds us that God loves us so much that He calls us His children. But I’m not sure I completely understood the enormity of that love until I had children myself. I mean, I loved my parents and siblings, my grandparents and aunts. When I fell for Steve, I thought that I’d never love anyone more than that. And I always knew that I couldn’t love as much as God did, I still know it. But then I had children.

I don’t think I even knew I had the capacity to love that much. Children changed everything. But they also began to teach me more than I would have ever imagined about the nature of my heavenly Father. Yes, being a parent was one of the best things that ever happened to my Christian walk.

One of the first things I learned was how much God loved me. As I mentioned, I thought I knew about God’s love, but I was in total awe when I began to realize that my Creator loved me even more than I loved my children. I couldn’t even imagine a love that big.

When my girls were young, I learned lessons about God’s nature at least weekly. Each time one of them did something to make me proud, it made me consider, “Am I making my Father proud?” When their arguing caused me to feel anxious, and I just wanted them treat each other with love, I wondered if the way I treated others may have caused God to be disappointed in me.

Have you ever wondered what an adult fit looks like? My girl’s stubborn times, when they talked back or were obstinate, those times made me look at my life and my attitudes. Of course, I never layed on the floor and kicked my feet, but how often was I defiant when God showed me something He wanted me to do? Parenting a strong willed child forced me to evaluate my actions in light of scripture.

I could go on and on sharing the lessons Christ has taught me through my children, lessons about truth, integrity, spending time with Him and priorities. But the best part is the fact that these lessons have not only made me a better person but a better Christian.

So, how are you doing as a child of God? Have you considered His love for you based on how much you love your children? How does the way you forgive your children or discipline them help you understand God’s forgiveness and discipline for you? Never forget you are a child of God. He loves you more than you can ever imagine!

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