

Your Identity in Christ 3

Creation Longs for the Revealing of the Sons of God

- Romans 8:14-22 - 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Creation is Affected by Us... for Good or Bad

- Isaiah 24:4-6 - 4 The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. 5 The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 - ...If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Romans 8:19 - For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

- The Passion Translation: The entire universe is standing on tiptoe, yearning to see the unveiling of God’s glorious sons and daughters!
- “waits” = apekdechomai = to wait with eager expectation... to fix your eyes on the one thing you’re expecting to come and not worry about everything else that’s a side issue... used in reference to eagerly waiting for Jesus’ return
- “eager longing” = apokaradokia = lit. “with head out-stretched”... eager, intense expectation... The image is that of an Olympic runner straining forward to the end-goal with “head outstretched”

In Christ, We Will One Day Be Glorified

- Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
 - “glory” = doxa = God’s infinite, intrinsic worth... a heaviness, a weightiness... a brightness (like the moon, stars, sun)... the splendor and majesty originating in God alone
 - Glory is the kingly majesty that is God’s by design. It defines His awesome nature.
 - Glory is something that in the Greco-Roman world was understood to be only for God, not for people.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-55 - 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 – 1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan,

longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened —not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

In Christ, We Have Already Been Glorified

- Romans 8:29-30 - 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
 - We were predestined to be conformed to Jesus
 - We were called into a new life
 - We were justified, declared righteous
 - We were glorified (past tense)
- Jesus Gives Us His Glory
 - John 17:5 – And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
 - John 17:20-22 – 20 I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one...
- Psalm 16:3 – As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.
 - NASB = the saints are the “majestic ones”
 - “excellent ones” = addir = mighty, magnificent, noble...

In Christ, We Are Being Glorified

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 John 3:1-2 – 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Three Questions in Closing

- Are you waiting for that glory that will one day come upon you at the Resurrection, are you setting your hope in eternity? Or are you so caught up in this world, your life here and now, that you lose sight of the end?
- What are you doing with the glory that is already within you? Creation waits for you with eager longing – what are you doing about it? How are you using the glory within you?
- What are you doing to go from glory to glory? Are you allowing the kingdom of God within you to grow and expand and change you?