

In next 3 messages look at some of names and titles given to Jesus. e.g. What does name “Jesus” mean? Or title “Christ” or “Lord”? What do they tell us about this One who is at center of our faith? Today, begin with “Son of God”.

**Again and again in New Testament, Jesus is called the “Son of God”.**

Mark begins gospel: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, *the Son of God*”  
Mark 1:1

At Jesus’ baptism, voice from heaven bellows out: “You are my *beloved Son*; with you I am well pleased” Mark 1:11

After Jesus speaks a word and calms storm at sea, awe-struck disciples in boat cry out, “Truly you are the *Son of God*” Matthew 14:33

This was the charge brought against Jesus as stood before Pontius Pilate: “Pilate said to them, ‘Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.’ The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the *Son of God*’” John 19:6-7

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BRIDGE...what are NT writers claiming when call Jesus the Son of God?

Illust. We all know what “son” is, don’t we? Some of us are sons, or have sons.

Think minute: If Jesus is God’s Son, who’s the father? Say, “God is.” Who’s the mother? Well....er.....(Mary is *human* mother, but not God’s *wife*!).

When profess Jesus as God’s Son, are expressing something different than biology of man and woman having sex and reproducing a child!

(Good example of how words and thought forms in Bible sometimes mean something totally different than what mean today).

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BRIDGE...to say Jesus is God’s Son meant at least 2 things for Biblical writers:

**Jesus had a unique relationship with God**

A “son” had an intimacy, closeness, special relationship with his father.

Ask: Did Jesus have a special relationship with God the Father? *He sure did!*

John 1:18 says, “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

Term, “only begotten” meant someone loved in unique and special way.

“In the bosom of the Father” – Hebrew phrase that expressed the deepest intimacy possible (sort of like “bosom buddies”).

***No one had as close a relationship with God the Father as Jesus did!***

He came to earth right from the Father’s presence in heaven.

He called God “Abba” – Aramaic term of endearment (“daddy”).

John 5:19 adds a slant to this. Jesus says, “I tell you the truth, the Son does nothing on his own; he does only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son does.”

How often do children imitate their father (or mother)?

Illust. My dad had private pilot’s license. I flew a lot with him. But as young boy I’d go out in car, pretend was plane, and I was pilot (neighbors must have thought I was looney). Dad also built mockup of plane, put in basement (sit in cockpit, stick, throttle, rudder pedals), and I’d fly (wore leather helmet and goggles too). I did what my father did!

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Jesus had such a close relationship with Father that He did what His Dad did!

Want to know what God does? Look at what Jesus did.

Some people think just have to guess at what God is like, or what His will is. Or have to rely on our own subjective viewpoint. Christians say, “No. Can know what Father is like because Son is just like Him and does what Father does!

Writer of Hebrews convinced of this: read Hebrews 1:1-3a (Jesus is exact replica of God the Father).

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BRIDGE...secondly, when we call Jesus the “Son of God” are saying

## **Jesus lived a unique life of obedience to the Father**

To Hebrews, to be a “son” spoke of your obedience to the Father.

John 6:38 (Jesus said) “I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.”

John 8:29 (Jesus again) “The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.”

Nobody ever obeyed God perfectly.....except Jesus!

### ***Jesus’ perfect obedience to God’s will fulfills the Old Testament!***

In OT, *Israel* is called God’s “son”. Israel given special relationship to God. They were to obey God so God could reveal Himself to whole world through them. *Did Israel obey God?* In the end, *no*. ***So Jesus was the obedient Son Israel failed to be!***

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### **Here’s the thing: Because of the Son Jesus’ perfect obedience to God the Father, it opens up to all of us a number of benefits and blessings**

Just name a few:

#### ***1. Because of Jesus’ perfect obedience to God, we can be right with God.***

Romans 5:10 “For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.”

Were reconciled to God through death of God’s Son – to be “reconciled” to God means to be friends again. Our sins separate us from God, makes us enemies of God. Jesus overcomes that enmity and estrangement from God and enables us to be in right relationship with God again.

Romans 5:19 “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

The disobedience of one man (Adam) caused us to be sinners. The obedience of the one man (Jesus) means we can be right with God (i.e. “righteous”).

Ask: Are you right with God? Is your relationship with God marked by sense of distance, hostility? Doesn't have to stay that way. When turn to Christ, can know peace that comes from being forgiven, brought back into fellowship with Creator!

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## ***2. Because of Jesus' perfect obedience to God as God's Son, we can be part of God's family.***

Read Galatians 4:4-5 God sent His Son that we can become children of God – not by natural birthright, but by being adopted into God's family.

Illust. Might be thinking: Wait minute. I thought we are all children of God!

No. Is liberal Protestant idea, not in Bible.

We're all God's *creatures* (created by God). But only become God's *children* through faith in Christ.

John 1:12 "But to all who received him (Jesus), who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God."

Galatians 3:26 "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."

Continue with passage in Galatians 4: read Galatians 4:6 God sends Spirit of His Son Jesus into hearts, can be so close to God that can call God "abba" (daddy)!

That's what Jesus called the Father – intimate term. And through Jesus we can have some of that same closeness to God that Jesus has!

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Go on to next verse in Galatians 4: read Galatians 4:7

As God's adopted sons and daughters we get an inheritance! We are *heirs*.

Romans 8:17 says we are joint heirs with Christ. The inheritance really belongs to Jesus, as God's true Son, but through Him we are written into the will!

The inheritance we get is not money or houses or cars, but an *eternal inheritance*.

1 Peter 1:4 says is an inheritance that can never "perish, spoil, or fade" because it's kept in heaven for us!

BRIDGE...a third benefit that comes to us because of what Jesus, God's Son, has done for us is this (and it follows from our being adopted into God's family):

**3. *Through God's Son Jesus we have "life"!***

1 John 1:9 "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might *live* through him."

John says reason wrote gospel is "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have *life* in his name" John 20:31

This "life" that is mentioned here isn't *physical life*. We all have that. But life with God in it. A new quality of living that begins when we receive Christ, and continues even after we die! Bible also calls this "eternal life."

You know John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his *only Son*, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have *eternal life*."

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*Bible also very blunt that if we ignore or reject God's Son we can't have this life.*

Read John 3:17-18 (next two verses after John 3:16!)

1 John 5:11-12 "And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

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BRIDGE...so when call Jesus the Son of God, we are claiming all this: that Jesus had special relationship with Father that no one else ever had, that He lived life of perfect obedience to His Father – and because of this, can be

reconciled to God, and be adopted into God's family, with an inheritance

One more thought about Jesus as God's Son:

***If we become God's sons and daughters by putting our faith in Christ, then we are called to obey the Father's will, just like Jesus did.***

1 John 3:10 puts it straight: "This is how we know who the children of God are ...anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God, neither is anyone who does not love his brethren."

What's perhaps the most distinguishing mark of a "son" in the Bible? What's the thing that should mark our life if we're a son or daughter of God through Christ?

*Obedience. Doing what's right and obeying the father's commands (mother's too!).*

Illust. I remember a time when our oldest son's first child was about 3½ years old. Our son Kurt was complaining that Josh just doesn't want to listen. Was having problems with behaving! First thought was: "Payback time!" You were like that, and now shoe's on the other foot!

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But, obeying God, as a son or daughter of God, should not be a slavish kind of thing where our heavenly Father has to say, "C,mon now, ya gotta listen to Me, ya gotta listen to Me."

*We should want to! Should want to avoid evil things. Should want to do what pleases our heavenly Father. We should want to try to care about people as Jesus cared about people.*

*Because of what He's done for us.*

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Whew! Said a lot today.

And all of this is part of what we're saying when we call Jesus the "Son of God"!

