

## PERSONAL NOTES

*"For it is in Christ that Godhead in all its completeness dwells in bodily form. It is in your union with Him that your own life reaches perfected completeness." Col. 2:9-10, William Barclay*

## Lecture 6: Sons Trained to Rule with Christ

### God's Government Formed in People

God never intended that His Kingdom should be enforced upon the earth during this present age by external domination. Instead, His wisdom chose a far slower, deeper, and more enduring method: **formation before manifestation**. The reign of Christ in this age is not universal in scope, but it is absolute within those who hear His voice and follow Him fully.

The Kingdom does not advance through mass conversion alone, but through **spiritual maturation**. Christ reigns where He is obeyed; His government is embodied where His nature is formed.

This is why Scripture reveals that Christ's rule during this age is confined to the **called-out ones** the "*Ecclesia*," those who have been summoned not merely to believe, but to be conformed to His image.

*"After this I will return and rebuild the tabernacle of David... that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord." Acts 15:16-17, NKJV.*

The phrase "*after this*" is crucial. It reveals divine sequence. First, God forms a people. **Then**, through them, He reaches the rest.

### The Tabernacle of David and the Government of Sons

The **Tabernacle of David** was unique among all Old Testament structures. Unlike Moses' tabernacle or Solomon's temple, it emphasized **unhindered access to God's presence**. It prophetically pointed to a people among whom God would dwell freely, not behind veils or rituals, but within hearts.

This tabernacle is not rebuilt with wood or stone. It is rebuilt in **sons**.

*"You are... being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." Eph. 2:22*

The sons God is forming are not merely worshippers; they are **governing sons**, kings and priests after the order of Melchizedek. Through discipline, suffering, obedience, and transformation, they are trained to carry responsibility without corruption.

God is not raising rulers who seek power, but sons who have been **emptied of self**.

### The Training of Rulers

Scripture is unambiguous:

*"If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him." 2 Tim. 2:12*

Reigning is not granted to spiritual infants. Authority rests upon maturity. The Kingdom requires men and women whose wills have been yielded, whose ambitions have been purified, and whose nature has been reshaped by Christ.

For nearly two thousand years, God has been patiently selecting and refining this ruling company. Every generation contributes stones to the structure. No suffering is wasted; no trial is accidental. Each serves the preparation of those who will share Christ's throne.

*"To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."*  
Rev. 3:21

### **The Family of God and the Call to Maturity**

The family of God is vast and diverse. From newborn believers to a mature Bride emerging in Christ's likeness, all share one life: **Christ Himself**. Yet Scripture insists that we must not remain children.

Paul writes with the anguish of a spiritual father:

*"My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you,"*  
Gal. 4:19, AMP.

Love for the family of God does not mean tolerance of immaturity. True love calls believers onward toward growth. Spiritual maturity is not measured by activity or knowledge, but by the **manifestation of Christ's nature**.

*"Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* Eph. 4:13, NKJV.

### **The Stages of Spiritual Growth**

Scripture reveals distinct stages of development within the family of God:

#### ***Passover Dimension***

- **Babes – "Nepios" (1–2 years)**  
Immature, dependent, easily divided (1 Corinthians 3:1–3)
- **Children – "Paidon" (2–12 years)**  
Growing, learning, but still externally guided

Paul said:

*"When I was a child (nepios!) I had a child's speech; I had a child's mind; I had a child's thoughts. But when I became a man (mature – Eph. 4:13) I put away childish things."* 1 Cor. 13:1, William Barclay.

#### **PERSONAL NOTES**

Spiritual maturity becomes evident in the revealed nature of Christ!

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**“Teknon”** (children) gives prominence to the fact of birth. (John 1:12-13; 3:1-8; 1 Pet. 1:23).

**“Huioi”** (son) reveals the dignity and character of the Father.

**Tabernacle of David** = Revealed or manifested glory of God.

*“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs, with Christ, if indeed, we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.” Rom. 8:16-17, NIV.*

## ***Pentecostal Realm***

- **Sons-in-training – “Teknon”**  
Spirit-indwelt believers learning obedience and identity

## ***Feast of Tabernacles Realm***

- **Mature Sons – “Huioi”**  
Those who manifest the Father’s nature and authority

*“The creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons (“huioi”) of God.” Rom. 8:19*

These are not titles but **states of formation**.

## **Christ Our Life Made Manifest**

The mature believer no longer lives from religious effort but from **union**.

*“When Christ, who is our life, appears (“Phaneroo”), then you also will appear with Him in glory.” Colossians 3:4, AMP.*

## **Word Power**

APPEAR in Greek is: *“Phaneroo”*

It denotes: to uncover, make visible, reveal what was hidden.

Jesus was the *“Phaneroo”* of God:

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...” 1 Tim. 3:16, NKJV.*

Likewise, the mature Church is destined to be the *“Phaneroo”* of Christ.

*“As He is, so are we in this world.” 1 John 4:17, NKJV.*

## **The Purpose of the Church Age**

God’s intention during this age has never been the immediate salvation of all humanity. Scripture is clear: the Gospel has **called out some**, everywhere, but never all.

The Church exists to become a **governing Body**, fully prepared to administer God’s Kingdom in the age to come.

*“After this (after the Lord has completed His work of calling out and forming His people), I will return and build again the Tabernacle of David ... that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the gentiles ...” Acts 15:14-17, NKJV.*

The **residue** means *the rest*. God first forms rulers so that, through them, the rest may be healed.

This is why the Kingdom cannot come in fullness until the Body is ready.

### **The Throne Shared with Christ**

God is not merely saving individuals; He is raising sons to reign. These sons will administer the Kingdom with Christ, not in domination, but in righteousness, peace, and redemptive authority.

*“Those who suffer with Him shall also be glorified with Him.” Rom. 8:17*

Through centuries of refining, God has been shaping this company, through persecution, obscurity, faithfulness, and obedience, until they are fit to sit with Christ on His throne.

### **Summary**

God’s Kingdom advances through embodied authority, not imposed control. During this age, Christ reigns fully within His called-out ones, forming them into a governing Body of mature sons. Through suffering, obedience, and transformation, they are trained to share His throne. When this Body is complete, the Kingdom will expand beyond the Church to bless the rest of humanity. What began as a stone will fill the earth as a mountain. Christ will reign, and through His sons, all creation will be restored.

This long and patient work of God reveals the wisdom of a King who values readiness over speed. Authority entrusted too early would corrupt; glory received too soon would deform. Therefore, God allows time, testing, and hiddenness to do their quiet work, shaping sons who can carry weight without seeking recognition. The Kingdom advances not by dramatic leaps, but by inward victories, where self is dethroned and Christ alone governs the will, the affections, and the mind.

As this company matures, the Kingdom begins to take visible form through their lives. Their obedience becomes government; their love becomes law; their union with Christ becomes influence. What the world cannot see as power, heaven recognizes as preparation. When the sons are ready, the reign will widen. Until then, Christ rules deeply where He rules truly, within a people being fashioned to embody His Kingdom, now and in the ages to come.

In this present hour, the call is not to visibility but to faithfulness. God’s Kingdom is being entrusted to those willing to be formed in obscurity, shaped by obedience, and governed from within by Christ Himself. As these sons grow into His likeness, the future of the Kingdom is quietly secured, for what is fully ruled by Christ today will one day help rule all things with Him.

### **PERSONAL NOTES**

## Study Questions

1. Why does God form people before manifesting His Kingdom globally?

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2. What does the Tabernacle of David represent?

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3. Who are the governing sons of God?

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4. Why is suffering part of reigning with Christ?

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5. What is the meaning of “*Phaneroo*?”

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6. Why hasn’t God saved the whole world yet?

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7. What distinguishes spiritual maturity from immaturity?

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8. What does “*As He is, so are we*” mean?

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9. What role does the Church play in the coming age?

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10. What is the ultimate goal of God’s Kingdom plan?

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## Study Answers

1. Because authority requires maturity; the Kingdom must be embodied before it can be administered.
2. God's manifest presence dwelling freely within His people.
3. Mature believers ("*Huios*") who manifest Christ's nature.
4. Because suffering refines character and prepares believers for authority.
5. To reveal or make visible what was previously hidden.
6. Because He is first forming a governing Body through whom salvation will flow.
7. The manifestation of Christ's nature, not activity or knowledge.
8. Christ's life and nature are to be expressed through His people now.
9. To administer God's Kingdom as kings and priests with Christ.
10. A fully matured Body of Christ through whom all creation is restored.