

The Normal Christian Life

The Eternal Purpose

- **Rom. 3:23** – For all have sinned and fall short of the **glory** of God
 - **God's purpose** for man was **glory**.
 - The result of **sin** is that we **forfeit** God's glory.
 - The result of **redemption** is that we are **qualified again** for glory.

Firstborn Among Many Brethren

- **Rom. 8:29** – Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the **Firstborn among many brothers**;
 - God's objective was that His Son Jesus Christ might be the **firstborn** among many **brethren**, all of whom should be conformed to His image.
- The Father sent the Son in order that the **only begotten** might also be the **first begotten**, and the beloved Son have many brethren.
- God is seeking **full-grown** sons. Furthermore, He wants them to share His glory.
 - Sonship—**the full expression of His Son**—is God's goal in the many sons.
 - He accomplishes this by **justifying** them and then by **glorifying** them.

The Grain of Wheat

- How could God's only begotten Son become His first begotten?
 - **John 12:24** – Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
 - The grain was the Lord Jesus. In **resurrection** the **only begotten grain** became the **first begotten grain**, and from the one grain there have sprung many grains.

The Choice that Confronted Adam

- Adam was created **morally neutral**—neither sinful nor holy, but **innocent**—and God put **two trees** in the garden of Eden so that he might exercise free choice.
 - These two trees typify **two deep principles**; they represent **two planes of life**, the **Divine and the human**.
 - If Adam should take of the **tree of life**, he would partake of the **life of God** and become a “son” of God, in the sense of having in him **a life that derived from God**.

- If Adam takes the fruit of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, then he would **develop his own manhood** along **natural lines** apart from God.

Adam's Choice – The Reason for the Cross

- The **consequence** of Adam's decision was **death** rather than life because the choice he had made involved **complicity with Satan** and brought him under the **judgment of God**.
 - **In Adam** we all become **sinners**, equally **dominated by Satan**, equally **subject to the law of sin and death**, and equally **deserving of the wrath of God**.
- We must all go to the **Cross**, because *what is in us **by nature** is a self-life*, subject to the law of sin.
 - God has **put us all in Christ** and crucified Him as the **last Adam**.
 - Now He is in the Spirit and every one of us can **receive Him**, and it is by partaking of His **resurrection life** that we are **constituted** children of God.

He that Hath the Son Hath the Life

- In our relationship to God, the question is **not** whether we are **bad or good**, more or less, but simply, **are you a man?**
 - If our life is on a **lower plane** than that of God's life, then we **cannot** belong to the Divine family.
 - Our only hope as men is to **receive the Son of God**, and when we do so **His life in us** will **constitute us sons of God**.

They are All of One

- God wants sons who shall be **joint-heirs** with Christ in glory.
 - **Heb 2:11** – For both **He who sanctifies** and **those who are being sanctified** are **all of One**, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them **brothers**,
 - The two parties mentioned “He who sanctifies” and “those who are being sanctified” are “all of One.”
- The **first begotten Son** and the **many sons** are all “out of” the **one Source of life**.
 - It is for this **reason** that we can **live a life of holiness**, for it is **not our own life** that has been changed, but the **life of God that has been imparted to us**.
- Praise the Lord! **Redemption** has made us **partakers** of the very life of God Himself.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 7)