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Election, Adoption, Sonship, and Discipleship

Election is the first of a series of Divine actions that are necessary and prior to a child of God being born again and any subsequent works of righteousness they may do. Election is God, in his foreknowledge and because of His love and mercy, choosing a people unto himself out of the fallen race of Adam who could not deliver themselves out of their state of death in trespasses and sins. Consider the following statements and supporting scripture texts as they show the progression of Divine action concerning us and how that any works of righteousness such as obedience, repentance and discipleship are only the results of these Divine actions, not the cause.

Election guarantees sure and secure eternal results.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Election is a function of the mercy of God, not our will, not our works.

Rom 9:16 So then [it is] not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

We were predestinated unto adoption of children (or sonship).

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Our adoption was secured by a the redemption price of the blood of Christ; His death in our stead.

Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

We are born again and have life in the Spirit because we are sons.

Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Life in the Spirit is proof of sonship.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God chastens all of his sons, which is also proof of sonship.

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

God chastens us because He loves us. We should respond to the love of God with a zeal for obedience and service unto God, discipleship, and repentance for our sins.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

We love God because he first loved us. Election was the first loving act of God towards us!

1Jo 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.