

GOD'S CHILDREN

By Keith Greer

Let's review some facts concerning those who are "**God's children**."

Through faith one becomes God's child. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." {Galatians 3:26,27}

In Hebrews 11, Bible faith is defined for us. Simply put, Bible faith is obedient faith. "By faith" men and women acted in obedience to God's commands. One cannot be God's child unless he has this type of faith - obedient faith that adheres to the conditions God established for those who wish to become His children.

Our obedience proves we are God's children. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance." {1 Peter 1:13,14}

Hear God's word {Romans 10:17}. Believe that word to be true {Hebrews 11:6}. Repent of your sins {Acts 2:38}. Confess that Christ is the Son of God {Romans 10:9,10}. Be baptized into His death {Romans 6:3,4}. These are God's terms for entrance into His body, the church {Acts 2:47}. Conformance demonstrates to God our willingness to submit our lives to His will instead of our own.

Our lives manifest that we are God's children. "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." {Philippians 2:12}

The Christian's way of life shows the world who he is. Jesus taught that the love we show one another is a sign of our discipleship (John 13:34,35). When we don't obey, we conform to the world {Romans 12:1,2}. We must not love the world {1 John 2:15-17}. We must put His kingdom first {Matthew 6:33}.

One becoming a child of God is a great honor and privilege. Understanding our Father in heaven and loves us. Never forget that with this great honor also come awesome responsibilities in carrying out His work while we sojourn here. Does your life conform to God's rules? ***