

Standing and State

Purpose: To teach children the importance of maintaining fellowship with God.

Imagine a little boy living in a lovely home with wonderful parents. When he was young, his parents took good care of him and taught him the right way to live his life. They had a great life. His parents were happy with him because he lived the way they had taught him to live. It can also be this way with our heavenly Father.

(1 John 3:1-2 KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. {2} Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.



We are sons of God. God gave us his seed, and we are forever his. He is our Father and we are his sons. Nothing can change that. Just as the small boy with the good parents, we can be happy because we live the way God wants us to live.

(3 John 1:4 KJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

God's greatest joy comes from seeing his children walking in truth. God's Word is our only source for truth. If someone tries to teach you that they have another source of truth, tell

them that the bible is the only source of truth.

Remember the little boy? He was happy because he did right things and his father and mother were happy with him. But suppose one day that he threw a rock through the living room window. Now that wasn't right, was it? Breaking the window is a sin. His parents had to correct him. Even so, he would always be their son. But, his rock-throwing action caused fellowship with them to be broken. This is called broken fellowship.

He would always be his parents' child; however, his state in the family would be temporarily hurt. The happiness would be gone. His rock-throwing action went against the right teaching of his parents. He would be out of fellowship with his earthly family, though he was and always will be their son.

The little boy would ask forgiveness and his parents

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would forgive him—the broken fellowship would be healed.

(1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The same thing is true with God. He is and will forever be our Father because we are his born-again sons. If we sin against God, our fellowship suffers. We need to thank God for forgiveness and then return to a sweet fellowship.

When we aren't loving to people, or when we are believing negatively, we need to tell God what we did, and he will forgive us. We know that he forgives us. Our fellowship with God is restored. Our joy will return.

The little boy was the happiest when he did what was right. This week, I'm glad that you can have a great week as you obey God's word and maintain your fellowship with God.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown