

## “son/child/children” “son of”/child of”

“son”/“child” or “son of”/“child of” can have different connotations today, and certainly did in the language of the people who wrote and read the Bible. Understanding this can help alert us when we come across these words and phrases to seek to understand what it meant to *them*. *Context* and *harmony* can be useful tools in ascertaining the connotation.

(Note: words have *denotation*—basic, most literal meaning, and *connotation*—associated ideas, e.g. “my ‘home’” may be used to mean, “where I lived,” or the “family love and warmth” I enjoyed in my youth)

**Idiomatic connotations today:** What do the following phrases connote?

1. “sons of liberty”
2. “A child of the ’60s”
3. Upon a boy throwing a winning touchdown pass, his father, who was a exceptional quarterback in college, says, or a “*That’s my son!*”

**Biblical connotations:**

1. **1Ch 1:28; Gal 3:7**
  - a. What does “sons of” mean in the 1<sup>st</sup> passage? Who are they?
  - b. What does “sons of” mean in the 2<sup>nd</sup> passage? Who are they?
2. **Gen 16:15; 17:23; 21:9-10**
  - a. According to the 1st two passages, was Ishmael Abraham’s “son”?
  - b. According to the 3rd passage, was Ishmael the “son of” Abraham’s wife, Sarah? Explain.
3. **1Sam 20:31** - If you have a Bible with footnotes, what is the *literal* phrase translated “shall surely die”?
4. **Eph 2:3** - “children of wrath ”
  - a. Calvinism makes reference to inherited depravity, “original sin.” You will find this in many commentaries.
  - b. What are the words and phrases *in the context* of **vv1-3** that indicate whether the focus is on *Adam’s* sin, or *their* life of sin?
5. **1Pt 1:14** - If you have a Bible with footnotes, what is the *literal* phrase translated “obedient children”
6. **1Jn 3:9-10** - If someone obeyed the gospel and thereby became a Christian, if he later abandons his faith and lives a life of sin, is he still a “child of God,” or is he now a “child of the devil”?
7. **Jn 20:31** - John said his aim was to produce the evidence that Jesus is “the Christ, **the Son of God.**”
  - a. Is Jesus the “son” of God in the same sense Adam was “the son of God” **Lk 3:38**. What does “son of God” mean in this text?
  - b. Jesus is called the “only begotten” Son of God in five NT passages: **Jn 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1Jn 4:9** (all in John’s writings). What does that phrase mean as used in **Heb 11:17**?
  - c. When used of Jesus, “Son of God” points to a relationship with God—He shares the Divine Nature. The following scriptures serve to show that.
    - **1:1-2** - Eternal, Independent self-existence (“I AM”) **8:58**
    - **1:3** - Creator
    - **1:4,12** - Life, Judgment (**5:21-23**)
    - **1:14,17,18** - Unity of Mind — Will, Purpose, Grace
      - “**not I, but the Father**” phrases in John, e.g. **5:30; 12:44**
      - Focuses on the **MUTUAL RESPECT** manifested in **COMPLETE TRUST** and **PERFECT UNITY** in desire and purpose, e.g. **Jn 3:35; 5:19,24-27; 14:9,10; Mt 17:5 (2Pt 1:17)**

This is the way the Jews of Jesus’ day took his claim to be the “Son of God” -i.e., to possess Deity, Godhood, thus guilty of blasphemy & worthy of death **Jn 5:18; 10:33...36; 19:7**

Highlights the **LOVE** that is behind our redemption, e.g. **Jn 3:16, Rom 5:8-10**