

# GOD'S PRIORITY

With Pastor Mark Sterlace

**November 10th**



## Exodus 3:7

*“God said, “I’ve taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I’ve heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces...”*



# When God thinks about you, He remembers that Jesus has redeemed you.



- *You are highly valued!*
- *Every time God looks at an orphan or at a vulnerable child, His heart is filled with love and compassion for him.*
- *His heart is out there searching for him, searching for her*





**It is not just a concern of God.  
It's a priority of God.**





Proverbs 31:8 says,

“Speak up for those who cannot  
speak for themselves.”





## **Psalms 68:6 [NKJV]**

*“God sets the solitary/lonely in families;  
He brings out those who are bound into  
prosperity.”*



## Message

“Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom..”



## Ephesians 1:5, (NLT)

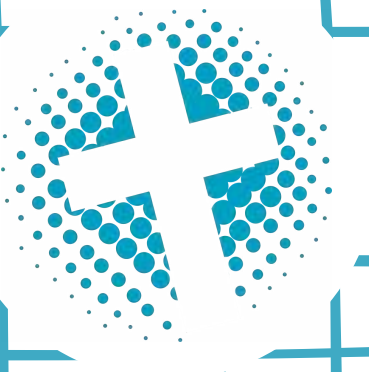
**“God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.”**





## **(Galatians 4:6-7. GNT)**

*“To show that you are His children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who cries out, Father, My Father. So then, you are no longer a slave but a child. And since you are His child, God will give you all that He has for His children.”*



**James 1:27 says,**

*“Pure, unstained religion, according to God our Father, is to take care of orphans and widows when they suffer and to remain uncorrupted by this world.”*



Once we realize how much God loves us and what He went through to adopt us into His family, we really have only two responses.

1. *First, it'll clarify with you how much your life matters.*
2. *2nd, it should make us sensitive to the difficulties of orphans around the world.*



# **How does the Bible say we should take care of orphans/those more vulnerable?**

1. *We are to defend their rights.  
(Psalm 82:3)*
2. *We are to speak up for them as advocates. (Proverbs 31:8)*
3. *We're to feed them. (Matthew 25)*
4. *We're to clothe them. (Matthew 25)*



5. *We're to protect them from those who mistreat them. (Isaiah 1:17)*
6. *We're to ensure justice for them. (Deuteronomy 24:17)*
7. *We're to share our resources with them. (Luke 3:11, Romans 12:13)*
8. *We're to find families for them. (Psalm 68:5-6)*



# 1] God has deep compassion for orphans:

1. *Hosea 14:3 "For in You the fatherless find compassion."*

2. *Psalm 68:5 "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows, is God in His holy habitation."*





## **2] God seeks justice for orphans: Isaiah 1:17**

*“Learn to do right! Seek justice,  
encourage the oppressed.  
Defend the cause of the fatherless,  
plead the case of the widow.”*



## Psalm 82:3-4

*“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”*





### **3] God's people Share Their Resources with Orphans:**

#### **Deuteronomy 10:18**

*"He defends the cause of the fatherless  
and the widow, and loves the alien,  
giving him food and clothing."*



## **Deuteronomy 14:29**

“And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.”




**4] God has adopted us into His Family,  
He wants us to do the same for others.**

**John 14:18**

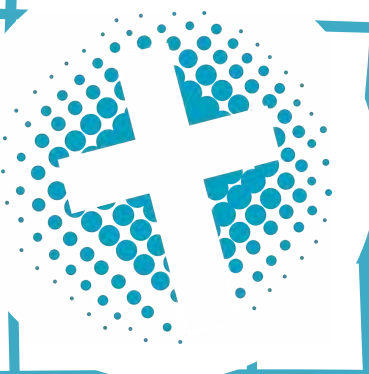
*"I will not leave you as orphans;  
I will come to you."*





***God will do even more than we can  
imagine as we allow Him to work in us.  
To Him be glory “in the church” (Eph 3:21).***

**How Can You Minister to Orphans and  
Vulnerable Children? [Practically]**



# 1 – Pray for an Orphan



# 2 – Send a Box of Love to Orphans



# 3 - Share Their Story



# 4 – Become a Host Family





# 5 – Sponsor A Family Ready To Adopt



# 6 – Consider Foster Care!



# 7 – Give the Greatest Gift: Adopt!



**Bottom Line ~ Find your way to care for orphans, those more vulnerable. ....It's important to God, it needs to be important to us.**

