

Sunday, September 21, 2014—Grace Life School of Theology—*Grace History Project*—Lesson 145
Sonship Edification: General Timeline and Overview of Key Concepts, Part 1

Introduction/Review

- In Lessons 143 and 144 we began our consideration of Sonship Edification (SE) as a modern development from within the Grace Movement. These lessons were primarily taken up with noting that one ought not to assume that they understand how someone is using the terms “sonship” or “adoption;” since these terms have a widely varied meaning and usage in church history depending on who is using them. As a result, one should always seek clarification in a definitional sense when encountering the use of these terms.
- Second, we discussed the relationship, i.e., the similarities and differences between Sonship Edification and the “joint-heir view” advocated for by Northern California Grace Fellowship. The “joint-heir view” is related to but not identical to the SE position.
- Thirdly, we identified Keith R. Blades as the fountainhead or point of origin of SE into the mid-Acts Grace Movement. We noted that Brother Blades’ SE teaching is primarily confined to his quarterly Bible study periodical *Enjoy the Bible Quarterly* which ran from 1996 through 2009. Consequently, those familiar only with Keith’s popular book *Satan and His Plan of Evil* and some of his other booklets, pamphlets, and tracts might not be aware of Keith’s teaching with respect to SE. We will discuss some of Keith’s recorded messages on Sonship in a future lesson.
- Lastly, we identified other men and ministries from around the country that are teaching Bladesian style SE. The two most prominent supporters of this approach to Bible study are Mark Newbold of Triangle Bible Church (TBC) in Raleigh, North Carolina and Mike McDaniel of Millennium Bible Institute headquartered in Imperial, Texas.

SE General Timeline

- Having identified Keith Blades as the founder of the SE approach to Scripture and Mark Newbold and Mike McDaniel as its present primary champions, a bit of historical context is in order. Please consider the following general timeline:
 - 1996, 1st Quarter—Blades begins publishing the quarterly Bible study periodical *Enjoy the Bible Quarterly*. The first article in the first issue was titled, “[The Adoption of Sons: A Primer to this Wonderful Truth.](#)” In this article Blades presents a standard view of Biblical Adoption that is in line with Stam’s definition found in *Two Minutes With the Bible*. In short, in 1996 Blades does not yet exhibit the definition of Biblical Adoption, i.e., “sonship” that came to dominate the *Quarterly* beginning in the ‘00 decade.
 - Exact Date Uncertain—Newbold learns right division and purchases Blades’ book *Satan and His Plan of Evil* on recommendation. Enclosed was a pamphlet listing of Blades’ tapes. Newbold orders the tape “The Battle on the Cross” and is so impressed with

Blades' teaching that he orders Blades' entire audio library with assistance from Triangle Bible Church. (Triangle Bible Church Audio #2094, 7/11/2010)

- 2000— Newbold begins emailing Keith Blades with questions (TBC Audio #2094)
- 2001, June—Millennium Bible Institute is organized in Glen Rose, TX by Mike McDaniel – (graceage.org, About us)
- 2001— Newbold begins phoning Keith Blades and recording the conversations (TBC Audio #2094)
- 2001, 3rd Quarter—Blades publishes an article in the *Enjoy the Bible Quarterly* titled “For It Were Better For Me to Die, Than That Any Man Should Make My Glorifying Void.” It is in this article from the second half of 2001 that Blades really begins to promote what would eventually become Sonship Edification. It is here that Blades really begins to use the vocabulary of SE in a manner that he heretofore had not. Consider the following statistical evidence: Sons/Sonship—64 times, Sonship Liberty—30 times, Sonship Status—10 times, Abba Father—1 time. Prior to the 3rd Quarter of 2001 the terms “sons,” “sonship,” and “sonship status,” had been used less than 50 times total between 1996 and the first half of 2001.
- 2002, 1st Quarter—Blades publishes an article in the *Quarterly* titled “Do You Cry ‘Abba Father?’” It is in this article that Blades teaches two different inheritances in Romans 8:17. In addition, the Sonship Vocabulary is further expanded: Sonship—39 times, Sonship Status—11 times, Sonship Education—6 times (first time this term is used), Sonship Life—7 times, Father’s Business—5 times (first time this term is used), Abba Father—10 times. (We will have much more to say about this in a future lesson.)
- 2003— Newbold asks Blades to teach him everything he knows about SE (TBC Audio #2094)
- 2007, June—Newbold teaches Romans 8:14 “Sonship: Introduction to Sonship” (TBC Audio Archives, Romans 8)
- 2009— McDaniel states: ‘And, in your exaltation, I’m going to make you the glory of God in Jesus Christ, and **you’re going to be a joint-heir with my Son and you’ll inhabit the heavenly places** and here’s all you have to do to get in on that: RECEIVE IT BY FAITH, because faith is the only thing you can do without doing something’. (Millennium Bible Institute, Revelation DVD Lesson 21)
- 2010, April— Newbold travels to Alberta Canada as a guest speaker for Blades' assembly (TBC Audio Archives, Sonship Conference, Strathmore, Alberta Canada, April 2010)

- 2010, July 4—Keith Blades passes away. (Endnotes page of more recent prints of *Satan and His Plan of Evil*)
- 2010, August—McDaniel teaches first SE lesson, Justification Lesson 1 (Class Notes)
- 2011, February—McDaniel attends TBC Sonship Gathering, Raleigh, NC - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzrfSWRsCkM>
- 2011, February—Newbold reads a thank you letter from McDaniel regarding the February, 2011 Sonship Gathering McDaniel attended. (TBC Audio #2205)
- This timeline establishes the following GENERAL line of progression with respect to SE: Blades—Newbold—McDaniel
 - Newbold—Strelecki
 - It is unclear at this time how David Winston Busch of Columbia River Bible Fellowship came to understand SE.

The Vocabulary of SE

- At the outset it important to understand that SE has developed and utilizes its own functional vocabulary much of which cannot be found in the Bible. Frankly, overcoming this language barrier and understanding how words and phrases are being used is one of the major road blocks to understanding the SE position. As we saw in Lesson 143 words such as “adoption” and “sonship” are used in a manner that many Bible students are unfamiliar with. In other words, they have been ascribed meanings that are unique to SE. Understanding these definitional differences is the first key to negotiating the labyrinth of SE.
- Please consider the following nonexhasutive list of words and phrases that comprise the SE vocabulary:
 - Sonship: Status, Education, Establishment, Edification, Liberties, Life (Lives), Checkpoints, Curriculum, Learning, Life, Prayer, Commitment, Aims and Goals, Walk, Glories, Awareness, Confidence, Youth
 - Father’s: Business, Curriculum, Chain of Provision, Mind and Thinking, Supplied Capacities
 - Edification/Effectual
 - Spirit Dwelling
 - Curriculum
 - Sense and Sequence
 - Table of Contents
 - Levels
 - Vocational Educational Training

- Abba Father
 - Creature
 - Adoption
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- Figuring out what a term means and how it is being used is a key first step to understanding SE. It is interesting to note that SE rejects the notion of the “indwelling” Holy Spirit in Romans 8:9 in part because the word “indwelt” does not appear in the Bible. Meanwhile they have invented an entire functional vocabulary and imposed it upon the Scriptures.

 - One key to understanding SE is found in dissecting the meaning of the name “Sonship Edification” itself. The words “Sonship” and “Edification” individually possess highly specialized meanings according to this manner of study. These individual meanings are then mixed together or wedded to one another. Consequently, it behooves us to spend some more time looking at how the words “Sonship” and “Edification” are used according to teachers of SE.