

Message Ten

The God-men's Divine Right to Participate in God's Divinity

MC Hymns: 30

Scripture Reading: John 3:15; Rom. 8:14, 16, 23, 29-30;
2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:4-5; 1 John 3:2

John 3:15	That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
Rom 8:14	For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
Rom 8:16	The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
Rom 8:23	And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
Rom 8:29	Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
Rom 8:30	And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
2 Cor 3:18	But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
Eph 1:4	Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
Eph 1:5	Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
1 John 3:2	Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

I. We need to realize that, as God-men, we have the divine right to participate in God's divinity, that is, to participate in God— John 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4:

- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- A. The first step in becoming a God-man is that we are born of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit with His divine life and nature— John 3:6; 2 Pet. 1:4.
John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- B. As God-men, those who have been born of God to be children of God, we have the right to participate in what God is and even to become God in life, nature, and expression but not in the God- head— John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:16; 1 John 3:1.
John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

II. As God-men, we can participate in various aspects of God's divinity:

- A. We can participate in God's life—Eph. 4:18; John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25:
Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

1. Life is the content of God and the flowing out of God; God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us—Rev. 22:1.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

2. The life of God is divine, having the nature of God, and is eternal, being uncreated, without beginning and ending, self-existing, ever-existing, and never changing—John 3:15; 1 John 2:25; 5:13, 20.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

3. The eternal life of God is indestructible, indissoluble, and incorruptible, and it is resurrection life that passed through the test of death and Hades, conquered death, and will swallow up death—Heb. 7:16; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18.

Heb 7:16 Who has been appointed not according to the law of a fleshy commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life.

Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

Rev 1:18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

4. Life is the processed and consummated Triune God dispensed into us and living in us—Rom. 8:6, 10-11.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

B. We can participate in God's nature—Eph. 1:4; 2 Pet. 1:4:

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

1. The divine nature is what God is, that is, the constituents of God's being.

2. God is holy; holiness is His nature, and He chose us in Christ to make us holy, even as He is holy—Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16:

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

1 Pet 1:15 But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life;

1 Pet 1:16 Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."

a. To be holy is to participate in God's holy nature—Eph. 1:4.

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

b. Having chosen us to be holy, God makes us holy by imparting Himself, the Holy One, into our being so that our whole being will be saturated and permeated with His holy nature—1 Pet. 1:15-16.

1 Pet 1:15 But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life;

- 1 Pet 1:16 Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."
3. To be a partaker of God's divine nature is to be a partaker of the elements, the ingredients, of God's being—Eph. 3:8.
Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
 4. Day by day we should partake of God's nature and enjoy the constituents of His being—2 Pet. 1:4.
2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- C. Because we have become God-men through regeneration, we have the right to participate in God's mind—1 John 2:27; Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16:
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.
1. We are in God, and we have the elements of God; we still have our mind, but we also have God's mind in us—Phil. 2:5.
Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 2. When the anointing is moving within us, it anoints God into us and reveals God's mind to us—1 John 2:27.
1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
 3. If we let Christ's mind be our mind, we may have Christ's mind—Phil. 2:5:
Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 - a. We have not only the life of Christ but also the mind of Christ—1 Cor. 2:16.
1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.
 - b. Christ must saturate our mind from our spirit, making our mind one with His—v. 16; Eph. 4:23.
1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- D. The God-men have the right to participate in God's being—2 Cor. 3:18:
2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
1. Our basis for saying this is Paul's word in 2 Corinthians 3:18 about our being transformed with God's very being.
2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
 2. The dispensing of the unsearchable riches of Christ into us means that we participate not only in God's life, nature, and mind but also in His being—Eph. 3:8.
Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- E. As God-men, we have the right to participate in God's image— 2 Cor. 3:18:
2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

1. Christ is God's image, expressing what He is—Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4.
 Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
 2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that
 the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God,
 might not shine on them.
 2. According to 2 Corinthians 3:18, we are being “transformed into the same image.”
 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of
 the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even
 as from the Lord Spirit.
 3. To be transformed into the same image is to be conformed to the resurrected Christ as
 the firstborn Son of God, to be made the same as He is—Rom. 8:29.
 Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to
 the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- F. Eventually, we will be brought into God's glory to participate in His glory—Heb. 2:10:
 Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in
 leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through
 sufferings.
1. God is a God of glory; glory is the expression of God, God expressed in splendor—
 Acts 7:2; 1 Cor. 2:7; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:6.
 Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to
 our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,
 1 Cor 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden,
 which God predestined before the ages for our glory,
 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of
 the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even
 as from the Lord Spirit.
 2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who
 shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face
 of Jesus Christ.
 2. God's eternal goal is to bring His many sons into glory—Heb. 2:10.
 Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all
 things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation
 perfect through sufferings.
 3. The all-inclusive Christ dwells in us as the hope of glory— Col. 1:27.
 Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this
 mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 4. As we behold and reflect the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into the
 Lord's image from glory to glory—2 Cor. 3:18.
 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of
 the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even
 as from the Lord Spirit.
- G. Another aspect of the God-men's divine right is to participate in God's sonship—Eph. 1:5;
 Rom. 8:23:
 Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the
 good pleasure of His will,
 Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we
 ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
1. Before the foundation of the world—in eternity past—God predestinated us unto
 sonship—Eph. 1:5.
 Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to
 the good pleasure of His will,
 2. Before time began, God intended and determined that we should participate in His
 sonship—v. 5.
 Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to
 the good pleasure of His will,

3. Christ's redemption brings us into the sonship of God, and we have received a spirit of sonship—our regenerated human spirit mingled with the Spirit of the Son of God—Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15.
 - Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!
 - Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!
- H. The God-men's right to participate in God's divinity includes the right to participate in God's manifestation—v. 19:
- Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.
1. When Christ our life is manifested, we will be manifested with Him in glory—Col. 3:4.
 - Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
 2. When God is manifested, we, the sons of God, will participate in that manifestation—Rom. 8:19.
 - Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.
 3. God will be manifested with His sons (Heb. 2:10), who will be the same as He in life, in nature, in mind, in being, in image, and in glory (Rom. 8:19).
 - Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
 - Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.
- I. The God-men's divine right to participate in God's divinity includes the right to bear God's likeness—1 John 3:2:
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
1. First John 3:2 says, "We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is."
 2. When Christ is manifested, the Triune God will be manifested; when we see Him, we will see the Triune God; and when we are like Him, we will be like the Triune God—v. 2:
 - 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
 - a. This clearly reveals that we will bear His likeness.
 - b. We will not only participate in God's life and nature but also bear his likeness—Eph. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 John 3:2.
 - Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
 - 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
 - 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
- J. Finally, the God-men have the divine right to be God-man kind, God's species— John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14, 16:
- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

- John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
1. God became man to enter into the human species, and man becomes God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to enter into the realm of God's divine species— John 1:1, 12-14; 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
 - John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
 - 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
 2. In order to enter into the divine realm—the realm of the divine species—we need to be born of God to have the divine life and the divine nature— John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6, 15; 2 Pet. 1:4:
 - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
 - John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
 - John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
 - John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 - John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
 - 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
 - a. We have been regenerated to be God's species and become God-man kind— John 1:12-13.
 - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
 - John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - b. Our second birth, regeneration, caused us to enter into the kingdom of God to become the species of God—3:3, 5-6.
 - John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
 - John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
 - John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 - c. All the children of God are in the divine realm of the divine species—1:12-13; 3:3, 5.
 - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
 - John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- d. In the Gospel of John we see many aspects of the believers living in the realm of the divine species—1:16; 15:4a, 9, 11; 4:23-24; 14:2, 20, 23; 17:22-24.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 15:4a Abide in Me and I in you. ...
- John 15:9 As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
- John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.
- John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
3. Wherever we may be, we need to remember that we are God- men with the divine right to participate in God's divinity— Col. 3:4; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.