

The Biblical View of Headship - Part 2 - Jesus as the Head of the Church (Believers)

Memory verse:

1 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

“Head” in this context, means; the leader, the chief, the one in charge, or the top person. Headship has everything to do with authority or rank and its corresponding role. It doesn’t have anything to do with value or worth or essence or being. It’s like the different ranks in the army—the person with the lower rank takes orders from the person with the higher rank, however they all work together towards the same goal or purpose.

Why is headship important?

Where there is recognition of, and submission to, these roles, there is order, community, love, relationship, and harmony. We see this in the way Jesus related to the Father.

Revision: In part 1, *Headship in the Trinity*, we saw that although Jesus was God and therefore equal to the Father in terms of essence or being (both Jesus and the Father are equally God), Jesus’s role in “Team Trinity” is to always completely and unconditionally submit to the Father. We can summarise Jesus’s submission as follows:

- Jesus is called the Son of God because that’s how He relates to God the Father—as a Son, demonstrating the proper and appropriate respect, submission, and reverence due to a Father.
- Importantly, Jesus’s motive for wanting to please or obey the Father was love—Jesus was well aware of how much the Father loved and adored Him.
- One of the required character traits for genuine submission is **meekness** (power under control—e.g. I could defend myself, but I choose not to, instead for the sake of the gospel or the benefit of the other person I am willing to accept the hurt/offence—just like Jesus did for us on the cross).
- The other required character trait for genuine submission is **humility** (thinking about others ahead of yourself or literally not thinking about yourself at all—thinking about myself and my rights just makes me self focused).

Part 2 - Jesus as the Head of the Church (Believers)

Now we look at the relationship of believers (the Church) to Christ (see Ephesians 5:23). Jesus is our Head, our authority. What does this look like?

The unbeliever under the headship of satan

First, what is headship like for the unbeliever? The unbeliever is also under headship, but not to God. As Bob Dylan famously sung in his song “Serve Somebody”, there are only two choices—God or satan.

*You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You might be a socialite with a long string of pearls*

*But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the Devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody*

Understanding what it looks like for an unbeliever to be under the headship of satan helps us to understand what it means to be under the headship of Christ.

John 8:44 NKJV

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father [satan] you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

John 8:47 AMP

Whoever is of God listens to God. [Those who belong to God hear the words of God.] **This is the reason that you do not listen [to those words, to Me]: because you do not belong to God** and are not of God or in harmony with Him.

Ephesians 2:1-3 AMP

And you [He made alive], when **you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins** ² in which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], **following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].**

³ Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [**our behaviour governed by our corrupt and sensual nature**], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then **by nature children of [God's] wrath** and heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind.

What do these verses tell us about man's condition without Christ; living under the headship of satan? (**brackets contain sections of the above scriptures**)

- the devil is the head or father of the unbeliever (***You are of your father the devil***)
- the unbeliever enjoys serving the devil because satan's desires are his desires (***the desires of your father [satan] you want to do***)
- the unbeliever lives solely according to the desires of the sinful nature they were born with (***our behaviour governed by our corrupt and sensual nature***)
- like satan, the unbeliever rejects the truth but embraces lies (***does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him***)
- the unbeliever only listens to satan and not to God (***This is the reason that you do not listen [to those words, to Me]: because you do not belong to God***)
- the unbeliever is under the wrath of God and is destined to spend eternity in hell (***by nature children of [God's] wrath***)
- sin causes the unbeliever to be dead to, separated from, and out of relationship with God (***you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins***)

Basically, before a person is saved, they obey the devil; satan is their head, their authority—“***following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]***” (Ephesians 2:2b AMP).

The desires of the unbeliever are the same as satan’s; even though they may not have realised it. Because the unbeliever refuses to serve God, they are actually serving Satan by helping him to achieve his goals. Jesus said in Matthew 12:30 that if we are not for Him, then we are against Him. This is the very essence of the sinful nature that we are all born with; by choosing not to listen to God, we end up listening to Satan. This is important as it helps us to understand what submitting to God looks like.

Jesus’s Solution—“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3)

I will be born again when I repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15). What this means is that I will be saved or born again when I:

1. Acknowledge my natural sinful tendencies and moral bankruptcy (that nothing good dwells in me, that is in my sinful nature), confess that I am guilty of breaking God’s perfect moral law, and understand that I deserve to spend eternity in hell,
2. Trust that Jesus’s death on the cross was the full payment for all my sins, and,
3. Am willing to change and repent of my sins (turning from sin to God), and choose to put Him first.

Transferring the title deed of my life from satan’s kingdom to God’s kingdom

What happens when a man is born again is simply a miracle. Let’s see how this happens and the change that occurs.

Colossians 1:12-14 AMP

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has **qualified and made us fit** to share [partakers of] the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God’s holy people) **in the Light**.¹³ [The Father] has **delivered** and drawn us to Himself **out of the control and the dominion [power] of darkness** and has **transferred [conveyed] us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**,¹⁴ in Whom we have our **redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins**.

Let’s break these verses down and see how becoming a Christian really does mean a change of identity and ownership, and why with that new identity comes a new nature.

v 12 **Giving thanks to the Father**: We often only think of Jesus when it comes to our salvation. However, the Father is the head or leader of the Trinity. The Father is the One who initiated and planned the whole process concerning the redemption of mankind. The Father is therefore the one who deserves most of the credit.

v 12 **Qualified and made us fit**: The Father qualifies us and make us fit to share in the inheritance of the saints. **Qualified** (Greek: *hikanoo*) means to: make sufficient, empower, make complete, bring to perfection, make capable, and enable. What a wonderful thought it is that we don’t need to qualify, change, or empower ourselves. It is a work that only the Father can do in us. It is all of grace. No amount of self-effort

will make any difference; only full submission to the will of God, as by faith we access God's grace, enter into God's rest, and therefore no longer live by our own human efforts (see Hebrews 4:10). It is only we rest in Christ, humbly and consistently receiving his gracious and undeserved help, that Christ will be able to live His life in us (see Galatians 2:20 and James 4:6).

v 12 **"To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints:** It is the Father who qualifies us, not our own works. We gain this as an **inheritance**, instead of earning it as a wage." (David Guzik)

v 12 **In the Light:** Notice the contrast between **light** in verse 12 and **darkness** in verse 13. The difference between our old and new natures is literally "night and day".

*"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the **light** has come into the world, and men loved **darkness** rather than **light**, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the **light** and does not come to the **light**, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the **light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God"* (John 3:18-21 NKJV).

It should be clear to us now that "**light**" represents living according to God's standards and values, while **darkness** represents living according to satan's values. *Darkness and light are not compatible with the other! Darkness and light cannot exist in the same place at the same time—where there is light there is no darkness (see 2 Corinthians 6:14-16)!*

Remember that Jesus is the "Light of the world" (see John 8:12); Jesus perfectly revealed the pure, perfect, and holy nature and character of the Father to this dark world (see John 14:7, 9).

v 13 **delivered:** Greek *rhyomai*, means to save, rescue, or deliver from imminent danger. "The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power." (David Guzik)

v 13 **delivered ... us ... out of the control and the dominion [power] of darkness:** This is what believers have been rescued from. What is the imminent danger? Eternity in hell, remaining "children of wrath" (see Ephesians 2:3), separated from God's love forever.

However, while we are still in our earthly, mortal bodies, we will continue to struggle with sin—not because we are still controlled by our old nature, but because we are still influenced by it. The sinful nature no longer has power or dominion over believers—it's power has been broken—but it's evil desires are still present with believers (see Romans 6:5-14).

"The **power of darkness** may be seen in its effects, and for those who have been **delivered ... from the power of darkness** these effects should be less and less evident in their life.

- The power of darkness lulls us to sleep.
- The power of darkness is skilled at concealment.
- The power of darkness afflicts and depresses man.
- The power of darkness can fascinate us.
- The power of darkness emboldens some men." (David Guzik)

“Beloved, we still are tempted by Satan, but we are not under his power; we have to fight with him, but we are not his slaves. He is not our king; he has no rights over us; we do not obey him; we will not listen to his temptations.” (Spurgeon)

v 13 **[The Father has] transferred [conveyed] us into the kingdom of the Son of His love:** Think of what happens when you buy or sell a house. The conveyancer is the one who makes possible the transferring of legal title of property from one person to another. The house used to belong to someone else, but now, since you bought it, it has been transferred into your name by the conveyancer. One of the roles of the conveyancer is to make sure that the purchaser actually pays for the property, that the purchase is legal and fair.

The Father is the Great Conveyancer of souls. Imagine that every human being has an individual title deed that details who owns them. Initially, we all belong to satan’s kingdom of darkness. The owner section of the title deed to my life would say something like, “satan, the kingdom of darkness.” However, when a person repents and believes in the gospel, the Father accepts the payment made by Jesus on the cross on their behalf—takes satan’s name off the title deed of their life, and replaces the owner as “**the kingdom of the Son of His love.**” God is now their legal owner. I never did belong to myself, and I never will, I will always be under someone’s authority. I used to belong to satan, but now I belong to God. Remember that we must serve someone, either satan or God.

It’s important that we understand the ownership aspect of headship when it comes to the Christ being the head of the church. “According to Barclay, the word we translate **conveyed** had a special significance in the ancient world. When one empire conquered another, the custom was to take the population of the defeated empire and transfer it completely to the conqueror’s land. It is in this sense that Paul says we have been **conveyed** into God’s kingdom. Everything we have and everything we are now belongs to Him.” (David Guzik)

A New Creation—Living in the Light

So now we know that the believer no longer belongs to satan and his kingdom of darkness, we now belong to God’s kingdom. What does this look like and how should this affect the way a believer lives?

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become **a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**

What’s happening here is that God has given us a new heart with new desires to please Him.

Philippians 2:13 NLT

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

This is great, but what does it mean and what does it look like exactly.

Ephesians 5:8-14 NKJV

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord [my new identity]. **Walk as children of light [in other words, be who you already are]**⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of **darkness**, but rather expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the **light**, for whatever makes manifest is **light**.¹⁴ Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you **light**.”

Here we see that walking in the light means living by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who produces in our lives the fruit of goodness, righteousness, and truth. There are several things we need to know if we are to be successful in walking as children of light:

- **My new identity in Christ (I am under new management)**

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord”: This is a beautiful truth that we need to constantly remind ourselves of—the real me, my new identity is “light in the Lord”. What this means is that God gave me a new heart and new desires when I was born again (see Ezekiel 36:26-27). This new nature is the “forever” me. The old nature which no longer dominates or controls me can only influence me as long as I am in this mortal body.

- **The battle between light and dark, the old versus the new nature**

“**Walk as children of light [in other words, be who you already are]**”: There will be a battle. Yes I have a new nature, but there is a battle in my mind that I must win. I must not allow the world to conform my mind (thinking) to darkness or wickedness, but rather let the Holy Spirit transform me by renewing my mind, changing me from the inside out to be like Christ (see Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18).

- **Living in the light means “all goodness, righteousness, and truth”**

This gives a good contrast to the “darkness”—all goodness vs all wickedness, righteousness vs unrighteousness, and truth vs lies/deception.

- **Walking in the light is a fruit or product or effect of the Holy Spirit**

The main point here is that living the Christian life or “walking in the light” is not humanly possible, so don’t bother trying to do it on your own strength. Paul rebukes the Galatians when he says, “*How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect [mature, complete, sanctified] by your own human effort [trusting in your own strength instead of trusting in God and His power]?*” (Galatian 3:3 NLT)

Victory over the old nature will only happen when I choose to put its desires to death by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“*Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.*” (Romans 8:12-13 NLT)

- **Walking in the light is a choice of my will—it doesn't just happen**

It's all about free choice. God won't force me to obey Him. Below are some things that I must decide to do using God's strength. Here is where many get confused and start to rely on their own strength: Yes these are my decisions, choices of my will, but I must always remember that the desire to choose what is right comes from God (my new nature), as well as the power to actually do that which is right (the Holy Spirit living in me).

I must constantly remind myself that God is the One who put the desire in me to obey Him in the first place (it's supernatural), and God is the One who enables me to carry out that good choice (see Philippians 2:12-13). If I allow my old nature to take credit for the new and godly desire to obey God, then I will be tempted to attempt to obey God by human effort—failing to: submit to, rest in, and depend on God. Of course any attempt to obey God using human effort will eventually fail because nothing good dwells in my old sinful nature—it is incapable of doing anything that pleases God (see Romans 7:18 and 8:7-8).

Here are some of the God given desires of the new nature listed in Ephesians 5:11-12 that I must ask God to give me the strength to obey if I am to walk in the light:

- Find out what is acceptable to the Lord—I must search the Scriptures to find out, “is God *pleased* or *grieved* by this thing that I am doing, saying, watching, reading or thinking. Philippians 4:8 is a good filter or test to use.

- Have no fellowship with dark or worldly things—any worldly ties, friends, activities, hobbies, addictions etc must be set aside (see James 4:4).

- Expose hidden sins—the best way to expose hidden sins is to confess them to another mature believer, become accountable to them, and seek prayer support (see James 5:16)

The Right Motive for obedience

Now the question is, why should I make those hard choices to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures? Notice they are sinful *pleasures*; my sinful nature finds great delight in the things of this world—thus why it is hard to please God.

I know that God has given me the desire, power, and ability to obey Him. But still, why should I make those difficult choices to go against the desires of my sinful nature and do things that please God instead (e.g. turn off the TV or phone and spend time with God reading my bible instead)?

The ultimate reason I should obey God is because God is now my head—He owns me. I am now under His authority, not Satan's, and it's by my own free choice.

It's like when I join the army. Before I join I must make the choice that I will give up the civilian life that I want and be willing to do everything that the army requires me to do. Repentance means making God my head, my authority. I willingly choose to submit myself to Him.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 NLT

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ **Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.** ⁵ And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NLT

Either way, Christ's **love** controls (*compels or motivates*) us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone **so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ**, who died and was raised for them.

Again, all those who are truly born again are under the headship or ownership of Christ. Because of this, they will **no longer live for themselves. Instead they will live for Christ because they now belong to Christ**, "the Officer who enlisted them". They will follow the example of Christ as He willingly submitted to the Father.

How to check my motive—understanding Law versus Grace

Remember that the church submits to (or reports to) Christ: "*But I want you to know that the head of every [believing] man is Christ*" (1 Corinthians 11:3a NKJV). My motive for obeying Christ should be because I love Him and am grateful that Jesus became a man and took the punishment that I deserved by dying in my place. Again, the correct motive for following and obeying Jesus is because I love Him, not because I have to.

If I obey Jesus out of a sense of obligation, then I will end up bitter and hardhearted—the sad result of attempting to earn God's favour by using human effort to achieve God's will. This is called legalism or religion. God hates it. God desires relationship. The result of following and obeying Jesus because we love Him is joy. Here's how we can know how we are relating to God. Ask yourself, "Is my relationship with God, 'I got to?', meaning that I feel like I'm being forced to do things that I don't want to do—like, oh no, 'I got to' clean the toilet. Or, is my relationship with God, 'I get to'?, meaning that this is something that I really want to do—like, yippee, 'I get to' play football on the weekend.

A legalistic relationship = **I got to**

A love relationship = **I get to**

John 15:9-11 NLT

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me. Remain in My love. ¹⁰ When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, **just as I obey My Father's commandments and remain in His love.** ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Jesus's motive for willingly serving and obeying the Father was because the Father loved Him: Jesus's desire was to respond to the Father's love by obeying Him, and thereby experience the joy of abiding in His Father's love—it's all about relationship. In the same way, the believer's motive for serving Jesus must be because Jesus loves them and they want to experience the joy of abiding in Christ's love.

Law is:

- *The sinful human nature tendency to think we need to earn God's favour—it's the worldly and pragmatic (or practical) mindset that "there is no free lunch, if you want something you need to earn it."*

- *The sinful human nature deceiving us into thinking that we can save and/or change ourselves—that the human nature I was born with contains some good (see Proverbs 20:6 and Jeremiah 17:9).*
- *Working to do what God wants using human effort.*

What can change the course of our life is whether or not we are living by grace or law. Am I depending on myself, or depending on God? Am I praying to God for help, or do I think that I can do it all by myself? Am I feeding on the Word of God, or do I think that I can get by without it?

This choice of attitude—proud and independent or humble and dependant like a little child—will either rob me of my joy, or make me full of joy. It all depends on how humble I am, how willing I am to accept the truth that without God I can do nothing that pleases God, nothing that has any eternal value.

Matthew 18:2 NKJV

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

A child = total dependance and gratefulness.

An adult = self-sufficiency, and ingratitude.

John 15:5 NKJV

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

My human nature is naturally proud and wants to think that I can do it all myself, that I know best, that I don't need anyones help, and that asking for help is a sign of weakness. In contrast, my new heart naturally wants to depend upon God like a little child depends on their parents.

Imagine what mum and dad would feel if their 5 year old child asked what they have to do to earn dinner that night? They would be horrified. They would be upset. Why? Because they love their child, and it's their joy to look after him. They don't want their 5 year old child thinking that they have to earn or do something to deserve dinner, and neither does God want us to try to earn the love that He already has for us.

Imagine that you received something from somebody, but later found out that they didn't give it to you because they wanted to, but rather because someone forced them to. How did you feel at first, and then how did you feel when you found out they their giving was forced? This is how God feels, it grieves Him.

Stop trying to be good enough and just love God

This is the greatest danger is for the Christian—thinking that I can be good enough for God—thinking that there is something in me that can actually do something good without God's help.

Galatians 2:19-21 NLT

For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I **stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God.** ²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. **It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.** So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ **I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless.** For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Romans 7:18-20 NLT

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. *I want to do what is right, but I can't.* ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

I can never be good enough to earn or deserve God's favour—I just need to throw myself on His grace. God calls us to come boldly to His throne of grace, where we will find help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16 NLT

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Why does God call it the throne of grace? Because it's where I find help that I *don't deserve.* Grace means unmerited or underserved favour. If I come to God thinking that I deserve something, then don't understand who I am—a selfish sinner who has been rescued or saved from sin by a perfect and generous God.

If I come to God demanding or expecting Him to do something for me, then I won't receive it.

The serious consequences of living for myself and depending on myself

Galatians 5:4-6 NLT

For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.

⁵ But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

Luke 18:9-14 NLT

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

If I’m coming to God thinking that I’m pretty good, thinking that I deserve something from God, then God won’t hear my prayers, and He won’t be helping me—I have in effect cut myself off from God—and am living by my own strength. I am proud. *I am not submitted to Christ’s headship over me.*

To experience or receive God’s grace, I must come to God understanding that I can’t be good enough, that I am completely underserving, but God wants to bless me and help me anyway. If I choose to trust and rest in His mercy and grace, then He will give me even more than I asked for. God is by nature giving, and He is just waiting for me to ask.

Me trying to earn God’s favour will actually rob me of His favour.

Conclusion—Christ is the Head of the Church, of every believer

The simplest way to describe the believer’s response to the headship of Christ over them is to understand that God wants them to love Him and depend on Him just like a little child does his parents. A little child never tries to earn their parents love, *but they do seek their approval*, in the sense that they want to please their parents because they are grateful for their parent’s love towards them.

I must remember that I am not able to be good on my own strength, and therefore I can never be worthy of His love—I must throw myself onto God’s grace. It’s so beautiful when I remember that I don’t deserve any of the good things I receive from God—they are all freely given. I simply say, “thanks God for loving me,” and then do my best to please Him because I’m so grateful.

I should do always do my best to please God, but constantly remembering that it is God who gives me both the desire (the new nature) and power (the Holy Spirit in me) to do what pleases Him.