



Sermon Notes from 17 November

Love The Orphans (*Psalm 68:5-6*)

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God loves the orphans and He calls us to love them, just as He does.

3 Essential Questions (about orphans):

1) Who are the orphans?

Ps 68:5 - Here in Singapore, an orphan is someone who has lost both parents, or a child who is in the foster care system - a child who has lost his or her family.

2) How does God love the orphans?

Psalm 68 is a Psalm of David written as a song to celebrate the return of the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord into Jerusalem. God chooses to reveal Himself tenderly as the Father of the fatherless (v5). We see this consistently throughout the Bible from the Old Testament (De 10:18, Ps 10:14, Job 29:12) to the New Testament (Joh 14:18, Jas 1:27). God clearly cares for the orphans!

3 Ways God loves the Orphans

1. He becomes their Father

God takes a personal interest in the fatherless by being their good and loving Father. He will never leave nor forsake them.

2. He protects the mother and child

Ps 68:5 - God laid down specific laws to protect the orphans and the widows (Ex 22:22). He also instituted the 'gleaning' law in the Old Testament to ensure that they can provide for themselves with dignity. God is the protector who is always good to His children. He will never harm them!

3. He puts orphans in families

Ps 68:6 - God places orphans in families and leads them from poverty to prosperity. He replaces their

loneliness, sadness and turmoil with love, happiness and stability. A home is not just a physical structure. A home is a family where children are loved by their parents.

3) How can we love the orphans?

4 Practical Ways:

#1 Everyone has a role

Every Christian can be used by God the Father to love the fatherless because the church is a family.

#2 You don't have to be a super-Christian

Because we have a super-God! What God requires is simply people who will love the children that He loves. When we put Him as our top priority, the fatherless will naturally be high on our priority.

#3 Go find them

Just as Jesus did not wait for us to look for Him but came down instead to look for us, we need to go find the orphans!

#4 Take the first step

Let us take steps towards preparing our homes and our hearts to welcome the orphans into our families.

On the Cross, Jesus was abandoned and rejected by His Father for our sins. The perfect Son experienced the agony of being fatherless so that we may be brought into His family. Jesus paid such a high price for us so that we can be adopted by the Father! Let's look forward to the day when there are more Christian families waiting for children than children waiting for families. By this Agape love, people will know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ!