

# Whose Child Are You?

by Ernest O'Neill

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*The sermon emphasizes our identity as children of God and the importance of living in gratitude and alignment with His love and purpose.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 19:1, John 1:12, Romans 8:14, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 2:10

**Topics:** "Creation Theology", "Christian Living"

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## Description

Ernest O'Neill preaches about the undeniable evidence of a Creator's intentional design in the beauty and wonders of nature, emphasizing that we are all children of our Creator, meant to experience His love and enjoy the life He has given us. He highlights the importance of living a life of gratitude, joy, and love in response to the selfless and generous nature of God, and the need to allow God's Son, Jesus Christ, to live His life through us. O'Neill encourages embracing the uniqueness of each individual as a part of God's Son and relying on Jesus to guide our lives.

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## Transcript

It's obvious that someone or something has gone to a lot of trouble to enable you to get up this morning, walk out into the fresh air, and go to work or school. Something or someone built that house or apartment you live in - and something or someone obviously designed it with great care and foresight.

But it's just as obvious that the sky above you is more beautiful and expansive than the ceiling of your bedroom and the sunlight brighter and warmer than the lights in your home. None of us believes for a moment that your home resulted from an explosion and you'll laugh at anyone who suggests it came about by chance. So, of course, none of us seriously believes that all the greater beauties and wonders of nature came about unless there is someone or something who wants us to be happy in the enjoyment of this wonderful universe.

Whose Child Are You?

Why has this great something or someone done all this ? Why has he made you, and why has he given you so many experiences and things to enjoy? The best information we have is the actions and words of the man who is known as the son of the creator of the universe - Jesus who lived around 29 a.d. in Palestine.

He explained that His Father and He live above this time-space world, and that His Father made you inside His only Son so that He could enjoy the infinite beauties of his son's life in you and millions of others. But this could only occur if you were a free person like his son - free to love him back for all his generosity to you - and free to reject him and his love - if you wanted.

But Our Creator knows that there is no life outside Him so He committed himself to keeping you inside his son (really therefore inside himself) for as long as it takes to bring you into the truth of his love for you. The death of his son, Jesus, in Palestine expresses the actuality of God's putting himself at our mercy as we continue to strangle Christ's spirit within us by our autonomous, egotistic lives.

So you are really the child of your creator - someone who is dear to him because you are part of his only Son. If you don't believe this or live your life as if you're a separate, independent person, then you're a child waiting to be born. Meanwhile, your dear father waits and suffers your behavior and indifference. Yet all the time he sustains you with his life that keeps your heart beating and your blood flowing. He spends each day planning for little experiences and people that you will enjoy, and his son's spirit in you subtly ameliorates the pains and tragedies that you would otherwise cause.

In fact, you live a life that your Father has already foreseen because he knows how you will act and react in every situation, yet he so restrains his own counteracting activity that your free will is preserved inviolate until you willingly submit it to the One who loves you most.

How Then Are You to Live?

What are you to do in the light of these realities? Obviously there is only one that you can take to this kind of love and care - gratitude and whole-hearted enjoyment of all the abilities and opportunities and experiences that God has given you. Above everything else, if you are really part of God himself and He is such a selfless, generous person, then you will only be fully happy if you live the same as He does. This means a generous, self-forgetful life of joy and peace and love. Anything else is unreal and doomed to eventual dissolution.

How do you live this kind of life? Only one knows that - no other human being can tell you the life that God's Son has planned to live in you - no one else knows. Each of us can know only the life that Jesus wishes to live in us - we can't outline it to each other. This is part of the wonder of this life on earth - each of us is a unique part of God's Son, Jesus Christ - and each of us has to look to Him to live our lives. Within you is his Spirit. You can confirm that you're responding to his spirit and not your own by checking it with the life that He lived in Palestine, but faith is living in His presence and friendship not trying to copy his life in the first century.

The truth of the matter is that no one has yet seen the life that Christ has planned to live through you - it's another one of our dear Father's surprises that fill the universe with his spontaneous joy and pleasure. We can in future discussions talk about Christ's spirit and share how different it is from our own spirit, but finally it's you and Him. Finally, you're the only one who knows if you or He lives and speaks and acts here on earth.

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