



The Theological Basis for The 10:10 Project

Coming back to the Father

At the heart of this project is a simple but profoundly biblical vision: to help men come back to the Father. Our aim is not merely behavioural change or personal improvement, but the restoration of men into a life-giving relationship with God as Father through Jesus Christ.

This vision is rooted in Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son—or possibly more fittingly, the parable of the loving Father—in Luke 15:11–32, and is further developed through Paul's teaching on sonship and adoption in Romans 8:12–17 and Galatians 3:26–4:7.

The far away son

As we know, the younger son in this parable leaves his father's house in pursuit of fulfilment, freedom, and identity apart from his father. Yet despite obtaining what he desired, he eventually finds himself empty, broken, and spiritually impoverished (Luke 15:14–16).

His story reflects the experience of many men today who seek meaning through success, achievement, wealth, pleasure, or self-sufficiency, only to discover that these things cannot satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. Whether they have once known God and drifted away or have never encountered Him at all, many men are searching for significance while remaining disconnected from the One for whom they were created.

The turning point comes when the son recognises his need and decides to return home. Expecting only mercy, he instead encounters extravagant grace. The father runs to embrace him, restores his dignity, and welcomes him fully back into the family (Luke 15:20–24). This reflects the heart of the gospel: God seeks the lost, delights in their return, and restores them to Himself through Christ (Luke 15:7; Romans 5:8).

A different kind of distance

Jesus' parable goes beyond the obvious lostness of the younger brother. The older brother reveals a different kind of distance from his father. While he remains physically close, outwardly obedient, and involved in his father's affairs, his resentment towards his returning brother exposes a lack of understanding of his father's heart and a relationship based more on duty (Luke 15:28–30). He knew how to serve his father but had not fully learned how to live as a son.

This distinction is vital. Many men inside the Church can identify more readily with the older brother than the younger. They may be active in ministry, committed in service, and faithful in practice, yet still

struggle with striving, comparison, performance, legalism, or a sense that their value is tied to what they do rather than who they are. The father's response to the older son is revealing: *"My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours"* (Luke 15:31).

Beyond serving to sonship

God's invitation to us is not merely to work in the household but to enjoy the privileges and security of sonship.

The Apostle Paul expands this theme in his teaching on adoption. In Romans 8:12–17, believers are described as those who have received "the Spirit of adoption as sons," through whom they cry, *"Abba, Father."* Paul contrasts life according to the flesh—characterised by fear, striving, and self-reliance—with life in the Spirit, marked by a deep-rooted relationship with the Father and confidence in our identity as His children.

Similarly, Galatians 3:26–4:7 teaches that through faith in Christ we are no longer slaves but sons and heirs. Christ came to redeem those under the law so that we might receive adoption into God's family and know Him not only as Lord but as Father.

The need for identity

These passages address one of the deepest needs among men today: the need for identity. Many men instinctively define themselves through achievement, provision, competence, status, or success. Whilst these can be good gifts from God, they can easily become substitutes for true identity which is found in Christ.

Men often know how to perform, but not necessarily how to belong. The gospel calls men away from a slave mentality of proving and striving into the security of sonship. We are not merely forgiven servants; we are beloved sons who share in Christ's inheritance.

The journey to sonship

The journey from spiritual orphanhood to sonship is not instantaneous. It requires discipleship, revelation, and consistency. As men go deeper in their understanding of the Father and His ways, they grow into spiritual maturity. True masculine identity is ultimately found not in self-sufficiency but in dependence upon God. The 10:10 Project seeks to facilitate that journey for men both far from and nearer to the Father.

- **Those who are near**

Through providing an innovative format for believing men to discuss issues of life and faith from a biblical perspective, we want to see those men go beyond duty and deeper into to sonship, fully taking hold of God's invitation: *"My son... everything I have is yours"* (Luke 15:31).

- **Those who are far**

Watching a film together and discussing particular themes provides men with a shared experience that naturally opens the door to deeper conversations about life and faith. This offers a comfortable and engaging first environment for non-Christians. As a result, Christian men can confidently invite their non-Christian friends into a setting which makes the gospel relevant and accessible. Our desire is that those outside the church discover the Father as a result.

In this way, the project aligns with Jesus' mission *"to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10) while also supporting believers towards spiritual maturity (Romans 8:14–17; Ephesians 4:13–15).

Life to the full

Ultimately, whether a man identifies more with the younger son or the older brother, the Father's invitation remains the same: come to Me. God desires not only to forgive men but to restore them, adopt them, and transform them into secure sons. The 10:10 Project seeks to create a place for men to hear that invitation, respond to it, and discover the life to the full which Jesus says He came to bring in John 10:10.