

God is a Father

6/21/20

Introduction

One of Jesus' purposes was to show them that the God of Abraham was their Father

Matt 6:6-9 Jesus teaching that the God they were to pray to was their Father

John 14:8-11

Many more

Jews of the OT had known God as a father in a general sense

As their creator, protector and provider

He acted through a covenant relationship through Abraham

Jesus revealed a much more intimate and living relationship that God wanted with us

This could only be entered through our relationship with Jesus

What does it mean that God is our Father?

First, what does it mean to be a father?

We look at His fatherhood backwards

We take our concept of a father and apply it to God

Our concept is formed by our parents, our experiences and relationships

People in our lives that have served in this role form an unconscious image

Fatherhood actually originates with God

The human examples we have had are imperfect representations

What was God to Israel?

Father is the originator of life - his seed initiates the process for life

Is 43:1-2 I am the God who created you and who formed you

Father is a protector - 2 Chron 20 - the battle is not yours but the Lords'

He is a provider - He fed them with manna in the wilderness

He provides identity to his children - his name, his features etc.

He provides encouragement - believes in his children -

He provides direction for their life

He provides correction with goal of maturing into an adult who fulfills purpose

All of this is done in the context of a loving relationship involved in their lives

REMEMBER: Because God is love, everything He does for us with us and requires of us is out of His love for us

Jesus came to reveal God as a father in a deeper dimension

He modeled an intimate relationship that God wanted to have with us

Matt 6:6-13 - talk to Him as our father who knows what we need

Jesus referred to God as His Father far more often than Jews of OT -

God referred to Himself as a father to Israel, but Israel did not call Him father

In synoptic Gospels, Jesus calls God "Father" about 65 times

In John - over 100 times

Jesus referred to God as HIS Father - personal relationship

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John 5:17-18 why the authorities wanted to kill Him

Jesus showed them that God their Father wanted to be the source of their needs

Matt 6:11 - give us today our daily bread

Matt 6:31-34 - seek Him first and He will provide all your needs

Apostle Paul had an understanding of God as our Father

Eph 3:14-15 He saw God as the Father of us as a family named after Him

Rom 8:15-17 - our relationship is not based on fear but adopted as His children

“Abba” Aramaic name of child for “daddy”

Very intimate

2 Cor 1:3-4 Paul knew Him as the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort

Major role of a father is to mold and direct the children to mature and fulfill their purpose

Gen 18:19 God chose Abraham because He knew that he would command his children

Keep the way of the Lord

Do righteousness and justice

“Command” - Heb - implies establishing a discipline and order of conduct

Heb 12:5-11 - God wants to treat us as His sons - out of love He faithfully disciplines us

Vs 5 - reminding that God is correcting them as a Father who loves His child

He chastens, rebukes and scourges

“chasten” = discipline or train

“rebuke” = to bring a sense of conviction on someone

“scourge” = to strike with a rod - a spanking - some affliction - last resort

Note there is a progressive use of discipline based on how we respond

Vs 5&6 - the wrong way to respond to His correction

To despise - to resist, to harden our heart, to refuse to let Him work in us

To be discouraged - to faint, to say I can't do that or it is too hard

God knows what we are capable of more than we do

He has given us His Spirit to help us

These are two opposite ways of avoiding the change that our Father wants to bring about in us

Vs 7 - if we will allow Him to correct us, we will allow Him to be a father to us

Vs 8 - His correction is proof of His love and that we are His children

Vs 9-10 He is correcting us to bring us into His likeness as a child to his father

Vs 11 - we can endure the discomfort knowing

That it is our Father who is working this in us

It will end in peaceable fruit in our lives

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Rom 8:28-30 Paul lays out the blueprint of what God is working in us - image of Christ
How this applies to us now?

God is challenging the relationships we have with each other to bring us into the love of Christ for each other

- Uncomfortable as we have to face attitudes, limits on our caring, etc.
- He uses our relationships to show us where we are and as opportunities to grow in this love Christ has for us

Phil 2:12-16