

Galatians 4:4-7

Father's Day is always unique because we generally use Mother's day to celebrate the blessing of mothers and use Father's Day to point out the shortcomings of fathers. I guess there is a reason for that.

1. If we are fathers, no matter how good we are or how hard we try, our shortcomings outweigh our abilities and performance.
2. If we grew up with a father, we grew up with an imperfect one no doubt.
3. Some of you grew up with down-right terrible experiences with your father.
  - a. Experiences that have made your father-hood a challenge
  - b. Experiences that might make father's day a challenge
  - c. Experiences that might make a healthy view of God very difficult to have.
4. Some of you have lost your father and feel father-less today.

What I want us to see this morning is that Christ is the answer to all of those issues.

READ/PRAY

How is Christ the answer to a "less than ideal" father experience? Let's look.

## 1. Christ Came v4

### a. In History

*But when the fullness of the time came,*

1. The Greek's had given a common language
2. The Romans had given safe transportation
3. The Jews were weary of their law burden
4. The Gentiles were weary of their sin burden
5. Mark 1:14-15 *Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

### b. In Holiness

*God sent forth His Son*

1. Jesus is God in the flesh...God's Son.
  - a. Hebrews 1:3 *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature*
  - b. Colossians 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*
2. He came in holiness

### c. In Humanity

*born of a woman*

1. He came to this earth, not only as 100% God, but as 100% man!
2. Born of a virgin, in Bethlehem, in a manger!
3. He experienced pain, sorrow, joy, trials, tests, and victories.
4. He was human.

#### d. In Humility

*born under the Law*

1. Who do you think gave that law? It was Him!
2. And yet, he humbled himself and subjected himself to that law
3. Philippians 2:6-8 *although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

#### 2. To Redeem v5a

*so that He might redeem those who were under the Law,*

1. He came that He might redeem us.
2. That word redemption would have been defined in Paul's day as, "The release of a slave by the payment of a price."
3. Christ redeemed us from slavery to the law and from its curse by literally becoming a curse for us!
4. Galatians 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE."*

#### THE GOSPEL

1. Christ came in history, in holiness, in humanity, and in humility to atone for sin and redeem us.
2. *The divinity of Christ, the humanity of Christ and the righteousness of Christ uniquely qualified Him to be man's redeemer. If He had not been man, He could not have redeemed men. If He had not been a righteous man, He could not have redeemed unrighteous men. And if He had not been God's Son, He could not have redeemed men for God or made them the sons of God.*" John Stott

#### 3. To Adopt v5b

*that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

1. Galatians 3:26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*
2. Once Christ purchased our freedom, he gathered us into His family.
  - a. We were dead in our trespasses and sins...but He made us alive: regeneration
  - b. We were separated from God because of our sin...but He made peace through the cross: redemption
  - c. We were orphans with no one to care for us...and He made us His children: adoption

1 John 3:1 *See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.*

1. I think we have thought about this enough that we don't think too much about this anymore
2. Yes, we are children of God. God is our Father.
3. We pray "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Your Name."

But there is more. Christ not only came to redeem and to adopt, but also to indwell.

#### 4. To Indwell v6-7

6 *Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*  
7 *Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.*

Jesus came to redeem us from the curse, to adopt us into the family so that God can be our Father...but he also came to indwell us...and why?—ultimately to be the answer to our father-issues.

1. Failure as a father
2. Difficulties in the relationship and memory of your father
3. The fact that you no longer have a father on this earth.

Look at it...God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts...why?

1. Crying Abba! Father.
2. According to F.F. Bruce, "*Abba is the voice of the Spirit of Jesus on the lips of his people.*"
3. I believe that the reason God sent the Spirit of Christ into our hearts to cry Abba "daddy" is because we would never believe we could do such a thing on our own!
  - a. We can believe that God is a heavenly Father who relates to us and looks at us as children.
  - b. But it is hard to believe that we are children who can relate to him as abba...perfect daddy.

Do you get that?

1. We can believe that God is a heavenly Father who relates to us and looks at us as children.
2. But it is hard to believe that we are children who can relate to him as abba...perfect daddy.
3. It takes the Spirit of Christ, the Son of God, indwelling us, to convince us that we too are legitimate children of God by faith.

Romans 8:14-17 *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

John Wesley said that before his true conversion, "I had even then the faith of a servant, though not that of a son."

How about you?

Daddy loves her, daddy loves her, yes he does...yes he does. Daddy really loves her, daddy really loves her, yes he does. Yes he does....to the tune of "Are you sleeping, are you sleeping, brother John."

She sings it with me! Except...she does 2 things on her own.

1. She says, daddy loves me. Daddy loves me.
2. And then when she says yes, he does...she says "he does" really loud and convincingly.

Some of you, on this father's day, in the midst of your insecurities as a father, in the midst of the pain, disappointment, frustration or loss of your early fathers need to sing that song with your heavenly Father, maybe for the first time.

1. Daddy loves me...daddy loves me. Yes, he does. You can today.
2. John 1:12-13 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
  - a. Do you believe this morning?
  - b. Will you receive Him this morning?