

I. Introduction: Your experience of fatherhood can affect your view of God. Ps. 27:10

II. Through Christ you are able to call God your Abba Father.

- A. God is rarely referred to as Father in the Old Testament. Ps. 103:13 Pr. 3:12
  - 1. He is called the Father of the nation Israel. Dt. 32:6 Isa. 63:16 64:8 Jer. 31:9 Mal. 1:6
  - 2. He is called the Father of the king. 2 Sam. 7:14 1 Chron. 17:13 22:10 28:6 Ps. 89:26
  - 3. Father is very rarely used in prayer and then only nationally not personally. Jer. 3:4,19
- B. Jesus regularly spoke of and prayed to God as His (Abba) Father. Mark 14:36 Mt. 7:21 10:32-33 11:25-27 26:39,42 John 5:17-26 14:31 3:35 17
- C. Through Jesus we are adopted as children of God.
  - 1. We were formerly the offspring of the devil, children of wrath. John 8:44 Eph. 2:1-3
  - 2. God the Son became one of us so that He might save us. Heb. 2:14-15 Rom. 8:3
  - 3. God the Father gave His Son over to death in order to make us His children. John 3:16 Gen. 22:1ff Heb. 11:17-19 Rom. 8:32 1 Jo. 4:10
  - 4. We have been given the new birth by which we have become children of God. Eph. 2:4ff 1:5 John 1:12-13 6:37,44 1 John 5:1 1 Pe. 1:3-4
  - 5. Now we enjoy the full privileges of our adoption. Gal. 4:4-6 Rom. 8:15-16 John 15:26 1 John 3:1-2
  - 6. Jesus teaches us to call God our Father. Mt. 5:16,45,48 6:1,4,6,8,9,14-15,26,32 7:11 Mark 11:25-26 John 4:21,23 14:6-11 15:16 16:23 2 Cor. 1:3
- D. Are you a child of God? John 14:6 16:27
- E. Fathers, do you so love your children?

III. As a child of God the Father you enjoy great privileges.

- A. You have direct access to Him. Eph. 2:18 3:12
  - 1. Earthly fathers are often inaccessible/unavailable to their children.
  - 2. You are always welcome in His presence. Mt. 6:9ff Eph. 2:18 3:12
  - 3. For what should we be asking? Mt. 7:7-11 Luke 11:13 John 15:16 16:23 Heb. 4:16 Eph. 3:14ff Js. 1:5
  - 4. We submit our requests to His perfect will, trusting that He knows what is best for us. Mt. 6:36-46 John 5:14-15
  - 5. He encourages us to persist as we ask in faith. Luke 18:1ff 11:5-9 1 Th. 5:17 Eph. 6:18f James 1:5
  - 6. We fathers are called to be accessible to our children.
- B. He generously provides for you. Mt. 6:11,25-33 James 1:17-18 Rom. 8:31-32
  - 1. Earthly fathers are often limited in their ability to meet their children's needs.
  - 2. God is a Father whom you can trust to meet your needs. Mt. 6:31-33
  - 3. God blesses you with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Eph. 1:3ff 3:20-21 John 16:13f
  - 4. You are heirs who await a rich heavenly inheritance. Gal. 4:7 1 Pet. 3:9 Rev. 21:7 Heb. 6:12 9:15 2 Tim. 2:12 Col. 1:12
  - 5. He has prepared a perfect everlasting home for you. John 14:1-3
  - 6. We fathers should be generous with our children.

- C. He disciplines you. Pr. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:4-13
1. Earthly fathers discipline their children imperfectly. Heb. 12:9-10
  2. God designs discipline for your good. v. 10b-11
  3. He may correct you as the direct result of sin. Ps. 32:3ff 89:30-34 Gal. 6:7
  4. Or He may chastise you in order to make you more Christlike. James 1:2ff Heb. 5:7-9  
2 Cor. 12:1ff
  5. He teaches you wisdom through His Word. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 Proverbs 1-2
  6. Discipline proves that God loves you as a son. v. 6-8 Pr. 13:24 Rev. 3:19 Deut. 8:5  
Amos 3:2
  7. Humbly submit to God's fatherly discipline. Heb. 12:3,5b Js. 1:4
  8. Earthly fathers and children can learn from God's discipline. Eph. 6:1-4  
Prov. 13:24 29:15 23:13-14 22:15
- D. He compassionately forgives you when you fail. Ps. 103:8-14
1. Many sense that they can never fully earn approval and acceptance from their fathers.
  2. God fully approves of you because Christ's perfection has been imputed to you.  
Phil. 3:9 Eph. 1:6
  3. When you stray He welcomes you back. Luke 15:11-32 Isa. 55:6ff
  4. Nothing can stop Him from loving you. Isa. 49:14-16 Ps. 103:8-14
  5. God wants us to have similar compassion upon our children, even when they fail.
- E. He will always be faithful to you. Ps. 27:10 2 Tim. 2:13
1. Some have been suffered at the hands of their faithless earthly fathers. Ps. 27:10  
Luke 12:49ff Ezek. 18:10-13
  2. God will never fail you. Heb. 13:5 Deut. 31:6
  3. God can rescue you from the sins of your father. Ezek. 18:14ff 1 Pet. 1:17-19
  4. He makes you part of His heavenly family. Luke 18:28-30 Mark 3:31-35
  5. God can help you to be faithful husbands and fathers. 2 Cor. 5:17

#### IV. Conclusion.

##### Discussion questions

1. How is God's Fatherhood portrayed in the Old Testament?
2. What do we learn from the New Testament about Jesus' relationship to His Father?
3. What is the work of each Person of the Trinity in our adoption as God's children?
4. Why do Jesus and the New Testament authors speak so freely of God as our Father when the  
Old Testament rarely used this language?
5. How do you become a child of God?
6. What are the privileges of being God's adopted children?
7. How does the knowledge of God as Father help those who have been hurt by earthly fathers?
8. What hope does the gospel offer to those fathers who feel that they have failed?
9. What kinds of things should we ask from our heavenly Father?
10. Why should we be thankful that God our Father disciplines us?