

GOD YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER – June 7, 2020

We have been talking about the Trinity the past two weeks, and have talked specifically about God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and today we are going to talk about God the Father. It's vital that we have a relationship with God, but it is also important that we have a relationship with each member of the Trinity, that we love and have fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Well let's talk about God the Father.

Each of us have had an earthly father, and maybe your father has already passed away, or maybe your father is still alive.

- And maybe you had a really close relationship with your father, or maybe it was a good relationship, or maybe it was a bad relationship. Or maybe your parents got divorced, or maybe, like myself, your father died when you were young, and you were raised primarily by your mother. And so you didn't really have a relationship with your father.
- But the point I want to make is that God wants the father to be a very important part of his family, but yet, as you know, God is also sovereign over each family.

Now my father passed away when I was 7, but 11 years later, when I was 18, God saved me, and therefore became my heavenly Father, and I became a child of God.
- And I remember thinking back then how I finally had a Father, and that really had an impact on me, and helped take away the sadness of not having an earthly father. And so having a heavenly Father was a big deal to me, and as it says in Psalm 68:5, He became a father of the fatherless, and that was a great blessing to my life.

Well, let's look at some verses that talk about our heavenly Father.

* **Matthew 6:15** - *"If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* You can only have a relationship with your Father if you know that He forgives you, which means you know you have sinned against Him, but then you know He has forgiven you, and that's because Jesus Christ died and paid for your sins.

- **Ephesians 1:3-7**. And we see that it is the Father who wanted to save us, who chose to save us, who through Jesus Christ, has forgiven us, so now our Father sees us as completely holy and blameless in His sight. And this is great news, knowing we are forgiven, and therefore loved in this way.

Now **Matt 6:15** tells us that true Christians will forgive those who sin against them, and if they don't, then they won't experience the forgiveness of their heavenly Father. If you can't forgive people, it may be that you aren't saved and haven't experienced the forgiveness of God.

Matthew 6:26-27 - *“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap nor gather into barns, and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”*
It's important that you see that you are valuable, that you are important to your Father, that you are much more valuable than anything else in the world. Luke 12:6-7, 27-28
- You may think you are not important, that you are a nobody, that no one thinks or cares about you, but God, your heavenly Father, cares for you, and is concerned about you, and loves you, and much more than you realize. Now if earthly fathers are to take care for their children, how much more do you think your heavenly Father wants to care of you.

Matt 6:8, 6:32-33 – *“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”*
You have needs in your life - physical needs, emotional needs, relational needs, and spiritual needs, and your Father knows what all your specific needs are.
And you need to know and believe that your Father wants to meet all your needs.
- Now sometimes God will personally meet your needs, and sometimes God will use someone else to meet your needs, but the point is that you need to look to God to meet your needs, and He will then meet your needs, one way or another. And this is wonderful, and so encouraging that God will meet all your needs. Now I am not saying He will give you whatever you want, but He will meet all your needs.

Matthew 6:9 - *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* Here we have the beginning of the Lord's prayer, the most famous prayer in the world. And what we see is that Jesus is telling His disciples, and us too, that we are to pray to the Father. Now we can pray to Jesus, and to the Spirit, but we really need to see our dependency on our heavenly Father, and that we are first and foremost to pray to Him.
- Eph. 3:14 – *“For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father.”*

Matthew 6:4 - *“...so that your giving may be done in secret. Then your heavenly Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* The natural man in us wants others to see what we are doing, wants others to give us praise and recognition, but as Christians, we are to make it our goal to please our heavenly Father, and if no one else knows how we are serving the church, so what? For our Father knows and that's what really counts.
- **John 6:44.** We should want then to please our heavenly Father and receive recognition and glory and praise from Him.
- But then we see that the Father wants to reward us, and bless us for what we do on earth. And this blessing will primarily be seen in the future, in heaven. And you need to know this, that God really wants to reward you. Matt. 10:32 - *“He who acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven.”* Colossians 3:23-24

Matthew 7:11 - *"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him?"*

If you are a parent, then you want to bless your children, and grandchildren too, right? You want to give them gifts, give them good things. That's just in the heart of a parent. But how much more does your Father want to give you good gifts. Your Father loves you so much, and so be looking, be expecting your heavenly Father to bless your life, and in all kinds of ways, spiritually, of course, but also physically and relationally.

- And so it's important for you then to ask God to bless your life. Matt. 7:7-8

Eph. 1:2 - *"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Luke 12:32 - *"Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."* Your main purpose in life is to seek God's kingdom, is to spiritually do the work God wants you to do, to do your part in building the church, knowing that God really wants to give you the kingdom, to bless your life with spiritual fruit. John 15:16

Matthew 5:48 - *"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."* And so what should your character be like? It should be like your heavenly Father, who is loving and wise and forgiving and good and kind and joyful and patient and gentle and holy. Now you all know you will never be perfect like your heavenly Father, but you need to see that you are a child of God, that you have a heavenly Father, and your goal should be to be just like your heavenly Father. You need to say, *"I want to be like my Father."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* And what should our purpose be? We should want to do the work of God, we should be wanting to do good deeds. Eph. 2:10 And our ultimate purpose should be for God to be getting glory and praise as we serve Him. Now we should want everyone to know about our Father but more so, we should want everyone to be saved and to know Him, to be forgiven and be able to call Him Father, and then experience His love, goodness and mercy in life. Phil. 2:11

John 10:29 - *"My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand."* We have this great promise from God, that our Father will keep us safe and secure all the way to heaven. We don't need to worry, for we know how much He loves us, and how He'll protect us and rescue us from all our enemies. 2 Tim 4:18

Now I want to focus more specifically on our relationship with God.

John 14:21, 23 - *"If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love Him, and We will come to him, and make Our home with him."* As Christians we want to make it our objective to obey Jesus, to do exactly what He wants us to do. And as we obey Jesus, then we have this promise, that we will have a very close relationship with God our Father.

1 John 1:3 - *“Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.”*

The word fellowship speaks about our relationship with our Father, and with Jesus. Now in life, what’s most important is not our relationships with people, but our relationship with God and having fellowship with Him, of spending time with Him, of talking to Him, of communing with Him, of enjoying Him.

1 John 2:13 - *“I write to you dear children because you have known the Father.”*

This too speaks of our relationship with God, that we know Him. Having a good relationship with anyone means we have to know them, we know what they are like, we know their character and their purpose. But it’s not just knowing what God is like in our head – it’s knowing what God is like in our heart – resulting in a real love for God, a real affection for Him, a real trust in Him. Jer. 9:23-25, 1 John 4:16

Ephesians 2:18 - *“For through Christ we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”*

It is a most amazing thing, that we have access to the Father. We don’t have to get an appointment, we don’t need to wait in line, we don’t need a mediator, or a translator – we can go to God and talk to Him anytime we want, and we can be completely open with Him, and talk to Him about anything we want. Eph. 3:11-14

Galatians 4:6 - *“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, the Spirit who calls out ‘Abba Father.’”* Last time we saw in Rom. 8:15 this same truth. This word Abba is an Aramaic word, and in our English language, it’s like how a child would call His Father *“Daddy”* or *“Papa.”* You all know that you only have one physical father, and you may have called him *“Daddy”* or *“Papa,”* and so too, you only have one spiritual Father, and He wants you to call Him *“Daddy”* or *“Papa,”* and He wants you to be close to Him, to feel close to Him, to have this special and intimate relationship with Him. And here is the Holy Spirit, and one of His main purposes in life is to enable you to have this close and intimate relationship with your heavenly Father.

Colossians 1:11-12 - *“Joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.”* Finally, after all we have heard this morning, we need to give thanks to our Father – we need to thank our Father for who He is, the relationship we have with Him, for how much He loves us and cares for us, and for how much He has blessed us, in this life and in the ages to come.
- Phil. 1:3, Col. 1:3, Col. 3:17, 2 Cor 13:14 – *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”*