

## Our Perfect Father 2020-04-19

### Galatians 4:4-7

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

God is called "Father" more in the Bible than any single description to which we can humanly relate to. Matthew. 6:9, John 10:30 & 20:17

- Not Father through creation, but through adoption/new birth. Galatians 4:4-7
  - Father's adoption and unconditional love/acceptance based cross, Jesus' blood not your behavior. Gospel
- "Father" title EXPLAINS the type of relationship He desires between Himself and his children. 2 Corinthians 6:18, Matthew 7:11
  - He ultimate authority, provider, compassionate, unconditionally loves/accepts/forgives, gentle, intimately involved with each and every detail of our lives.....not only beautiful pic but true.
    - Intellectually know how we're supposed to respond to this type of father but we don't.

Studies show everyone has a different idea of what God is like because unconsciously attach feelings/impressions of earthly dad to concept of Heavenly Father.

- children look at their fathers and see how they act/react and determine from those things much of what they believe God is like.
  - + if patient, available, protect, provide, kind, forgive, encourage
  - - if impatient, unavailable, abandon, angry, bitter, critical,
    - i.e. not bother God unless "in trouble" and expect anger.

Fathers have privilege of helping their children have positive view of God.

- All fathers are imperfect but strive through Holy Spirit's empowering to live in way children see what Heavenly Father really like.
  - Parenting is part of God's sanctification process.
    - When fail, humbly seek kids' forgiveness! Forgive self!
      - Actions louder than words.....Want you.

If suffered physical/emotional hurt, rejection even abandonment by earthly father or step-father you'll struggle to see God as He really is.

- Forgive or bitterness consume and hinder fellowship with God. Ephesians 4:32
  - Forgive as forgiven, you're not perfect either.

Enemy not only uses unbiblical beliefs about our perfect Heavenly Father to disrupt fellowship with Him but also unbiblical beliefs about ourselves.

- One of OUR biggest hindrances in fellowship with heavenly Father is sense that we are repulsive to Him because of sin.
  - All your sinfulness not nullify your adoption. Luke 15:20-24
    - Nothing separates Christian from God's love.
  - If child is muddy: reject the mud (sin) not the child.
    - Father not reject but pursues us with love and patience.

Understanding character of God essential to love/serve/be like Him. Psalm 68:5, Zephaniah 3:17

- Your Father's love is unconditional and He'll never hurt/abandon you or withdraw promises but will undeservedly bless you.
  - His compassion, understanding and forgiveness measureless.
- Omnipresent: was/is/will be present/faithful through all highs/lows of life
  - He hurts with us, desires to comfort/heal us. Hosea 11:4
- Supremely attentive and affectionate Father to all His children.
  - Don't worry about taking His time...it's already yours.
    - He desires/longs to spend time w/you.

Oldest to youngest believer same....whatever you do or don't do you will never cease to be a child in the arms of your Heavenly Father. Romans 8:15-16

- Stop striving for something you already have, your heavenly Father's love and rest in His love and grace toward you.
  - Delight in who He really is: your perfect Father who loves you unconditionally.