

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CALL GOD FATHER

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Today I am going to talk about God as our Father on Father's Day and just explain who God is as a Father from a New Testament perspective and what God had in mind when it comes to God being our Father.

When we look at the Bible, the whole thing about God is that He came to reveal Himself as our Father. That was not a concept in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, God was not a Father. He was God. There's a big difference between having a God and that God being your Father. It's like having a principal at the school and the principal being your father. There's a big difference. The moment we want to serve God it is from the perspective of He is our God and we ask Him what we need to do and we then serve Him. From that service we bring Him, He in exchange gives us protection and all those kind of things, as you would have with any king.

When we think of Zambia and the western parts of Zambia, they are still under the rule of a king. They serve and honor the king. What the king gives in exchange is supposed to be good government and protection and whatsoever. It is the same thing what the people in the Old Testament had about God. They thought that God was their king in the sense of He gives them the laws and the rules and He wants to establish His kingdom in the earth. As we serve Him and as we do good towards Him, He will prosper us and keep us in good health. Some of the Jews, the Pharisees, believed that there would even be a resurrection. But Jesus came and He said something that these Jews could not imagine! In a fit of rage one day, one of the Pharisees basically said, 'We have God as our Father' because they basically said, "Abraham is our Father and God is our Father." It was like they were saying something that was outside of who and what we really are. They said, "Well, God is our Father." But the basic thing in Judaism was that God is not the Father of people. God is not the Father. God is the King and He is the God. If you call God, "Father" it would mean that you say that you are equal with Him. That's what the Jews understood under having God as your Father. It is equality. That is why when Jesus said that God was His Father, they wanted to stone Him. They said, "It's blasphemy!"

So the concept of God as your Father, according to the Law, is blasphemy. You cannot call God your Father. It was a too intimate a term. It was also an understanding of equality. But Jesus comes with this family logic when it comes to the Bible. He comes and He says to them, "Don't you know that your heavenly Father will care for you?" (Matthew 6) He starts to bring into Judaism, a brand new concept into a relationship with God. He says, "God is your Father." The correct thing for them to say would have been, "What do You mean?" It was like when sometimes we are in a conversation and somebody says something we don't understand and we just let it slip. We don't want to confront that or ask what is meant.

Jesus came (Matthew 6) and He calls God their Father. He says, "First seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you." In that same context in Matthew 6, He says, "Don't you know that your heavenly Father will care for you." He wants people to think differently about God. He doesn't want them to think of God as a God but He wants them to think of God as their Father because the moment you start to think of God as your Father, you start to think of yourself as an owner of the Kingdom.

If there is a king in a country and this king owns things and he has a certain way of ruling, he has a certain logic and a certain way of thinking. The moment you realize that king is your father, you immediately look differently at the whole kingdom. You start to realize that this is part of and I am actually an owner of who and what my father is and does. That is who I am. He comes and He wants them to know that God is their Father.

It was almost like with Nicodemus. He said to him, "You need to be born again." To them it was a difficult concept on how to have another birth because he immediately thought, "How can I go back into my mother's womb again?" But what God was saying to them is, "I am the One who created you, but the very life that is inside you, your thoughts and who you are, can also be born from Me. I am a Father and I am your Creator. I brought you forth but I want to be the Father of your life.

If you look at children, you can look at the one and say, "That's the mother's child and that is the father's child." You would say that because the mannerisms and the way of thinking is also in that child. Then you can say the one is like the mother and the other one is like the Dad. And that is what God is trying to say here. So as an introduction I want you to know that God relates to man from the foundation of God being a Father, a family logic. It's not a "King and His servants" logic. So when we read the Bible, we need to come and understand God as a Father. You cannot read the Old Testament nor the New Testament outside of God being a Father. That is what the Apostle Paul tried to convey in most of his writings as well as Jesus. He tried to bring God forth as a Father.

In Romans, Paul comes and says that by the Spirit we cry out, "Abba, Father". It's a bit of a technical thing but I want to explain it today. It is so good once we understand what it means to call God your Father by the Spirit... to say, "Abba Father" by the Spirit because God is not our Father physically. We have a physical father somewhere and through him and my Mom, I'm here today. God granted life that I may be a life but the true Father of my life, not just the Creator, the Father, is something different. We are going to look at that today.

First, we cannot look at the Bible outside of family logic. If you read Old Testament, New Testament, it doesn't matter what, you need to read it from family logic. Another think about the Bible is it is a book you can read from Genesis 1 and you can read everything and once you understand everything, by the time you come to Jesus you will realize you cannot understand anything unless you start with Jesus. So read it from Genesis 1 if you want to read it like a book and read it in its true context, all of it. When you come to Jesus you will realize that none of what you read was correctly understood! The platform of your theology, the platform from where you have to look at Scripture, would be Jesus and the resurrection.

The first revelation, the first thing that Paul had about Jesus and the platform from where he interpreted everything was the resurrection because on the way to Damascus, he met Jesus, the resurrected Jesus! So here Paul comes and he has the whole Old Testament logic. He has all the understanding. He grew up under Gamaliel who was teaching people a lot about the gnosticism of that time as well as Judaism. He was an expert in trying to convince the Gnostics of Judaism. That's what he was busy with and Paul was trained under him and he was one of the most learned men of his day. With all that logic, he says, "The resurrection of Jesus is a lie. It cannot be!" Then on the road to Damascus he meets the guy that he says is dead! Imagine what had to go on in his mind when he was forced to interpret everything he knows from this resurrected Jesus! And that is how we need to read the Bible! That is the perspective from where Paul wrote everything. From that perspective he came and he said, "We, by the Spirit of the resurrection, call God our Father.

The Greek word for Father is the originator or the transmitter of everything, of anything. It's the author of a family or a society or persons animated by the same spirit as himself; one who has infused his own spirit into others who actuates and governs their minds. So, what is a father? A father is either a physical father or if we look at this in a spiritual sense, it is one who has infused his own spirit into others who actuates and governs their minds. That is a father. So, the Greek definition of a father is a person who can take the spirit by which he lives and infuse it into someone else. It's like if you take a fusion and how that takes place. It's an absolute becoming one, a oneness taking place in a fusion. So when a fusion takes place and God infuses His Spirit into us then we call that father. I think that is why God also said, "Call no one Father" because the true definition of father is not somebody who gives birth to your physical body but somebody who can actually take his spirit and make it one with your spirit and God possesses that ability.

The definition is one who infuses his own spirit into others who actuates (activates), who is the source of and governs their mind. Imagine that! We find that we can program people like that or brainwash somebody to a certain degree. By your clever words and clever way of thinking and saying things, you brainwash them to actually actuate their thought in their minds and put your spirit in them. Then you would be the father of that person who lives there because you brought forth their thoughts. You bring forth the emotions inside them. When it comes to brainwashing, none of it is by the power of that person. Everything is by the power of the one who does it.

When God made us, He didn't make us for the purpose of brainwashing us. The reason why God made us, and what we have been designed for, is to be a co-sharer in His life. He wants to be the Father of our lives. The way that He is going to do it is He is going to cleverly construct a truth that will shape and form the way we think about ourselves and others. That is what He is going to do! And through that truth that He will construct and bring forth, as we see that, it will cause us to think differently and it will cause us to have the very life that He has. The only way He could bring forth a truth like that would be to take a man that had all sin and all death upon him and make that man conquer sin and death and sit as a human being that cannot die and never live in sin at the right hand of the Father as the only truth about every individual. When we see that it is not a brainwashing but it is a reality.

If we use the word, brainwash, we can see it this way, in a positive way: It is God washing your brain from the lies that you have believed into the reality and the truth about what has always been His plan for you. Amen! So the word, Father, means to infuse His own Spirit into others who actuates and governs their minds.

John 8: Jesus said,

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and you do that which you have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said unto them, If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.

40 But now you seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

41 You do the deeds of your father. Then they said to him, We are not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, you would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

43 Why do you not understand my speech? even because you cannot hear my word.

44 You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

What Jesus comes and He defines father exactly as the Greek word defines it. He says to people who were of the seed of Abraham, to Jews who had Abraham as their physical father, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Then the Jews were very offended. They thought, "Being set free means that we are now in bondage and we are not in bondage! What do you mean, "We are in bondage?" They were actually lying because they have been in exile, in bondage, how many times?" Then they got angry at Jesus and they were jealous of Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. They then said, "We have Abraham as father." Jesus said to them, "If Abraham was your father then you would have done the deeds of Abraham." So here are people who were physical descendants of Abraham and they don't qualify as children of Abraham because a child of Abraham is a believer, one who believes. So if you are a child of Abraham you would have believed. They said, "But we have God as our Father." Then He said, "If you have God as your Father you would have the fruit of God in you. "What He is saying here is that, and the power of this is so beautiful, when we believe John chapter one, ***"To whosoever accepted Jesus has the power to be called the sons of God."***

The moment we accept Jesus and what He has done, the power of that truth makes God the Father of a new life in us. That is powerful because the moment I think of my physical father, I ask myself, "What can I do by my power to have his genes in me?" Absolutely nothing! It is by him that that was brought forth. In the very same way, when we start to realize that in acceptance of Jesus and what He has done, that Jesus believed, He has brought forth a fusion between humans and God in the resurrected Jesus. In this fusion, this oneness, that took place, that Spirit of that truth starts to dwell in us and then we have the right and the authority to say that the almighty God, by His being, His existence, shall bring forth, and brings forth the very fruit of God in our lives. That receiving of life is called, in biblical terms, the adoption.

It was difficult for me to explain this and last night I was trying to explain this to Helena. A wife is a wonderful thing! You practice all your messages on her. So preach it to her and see if she understands. If she doesn't understand then you say, "Oh, God, help me tomorrow!"

The concept of adoption, the way we have seen adoption, is a child gets adopted by a parent. We have taken that very same thing and we've taken it to God where we say that we were orphaned children and God adopts us as His children. But the true meaning of adoption there is actually if you also study the word, adopt, it is in the light of a government has adopted, accepted, a new law. The adoption that the Bible talks about is where we can adopt God. I hope you hear what I am trying to say. It's not that God was an orphan and that He didn't have a father and we are now adopting Him and giving Him a place to stay.

We must get that word, adoption, out of our mind. It's like you can adopt a habit. When you adopt a habit, it means that you accept a new habit and a new way of doing. The problem is that man could never adopt God. Man could never adopt love. Man could never adopt kindness. Man could never adopt true generosity. Man could never adopt eternal life. He could not. By the law he tried to adopt who and what God is but he couldn't but Jesus came and made it possible that we could adopt and actually receive the very life of God.

So, when we look at the adoption and we look at it from the perspective of the whole narrative that there is in the New Testament and what the Old Testament tries to tell us, it tries to tell us that we by our own doing, like the tower of the Babel, can build a massive tower but we will never reach God.

We can look at Adam and Eve and we see the whole story. They come and try to adopt God. They are earthly beings. They are made by God and they are in the image and likeness of God and then they say, "We, by ourselves, can adopt God." But you can't! That adoption can only be made possible by God Himself! I think the word, adopt, in the original, is closer to the word, accept... the acceptance, where you can actually accept the love of God not just as God loving you but as in God living His love in and through you where you become a sharer of His life. That is what it is about. That is the adoption. And as you hear this you look at God and how He saw man at a place where they were cast out, bound, were dying, were being destroyed and all those kind of things. As they had all of that in their life, He said, "They, by their own ability, are trying to reach out and they want to adopt God but they can't. They are serving false gods, then they are serving this god and then they are doing this, trying so hard. They want eternal life but they cannot accept it. It cannot be taken but what I am going to do is I am going to take a human and I am going to conquer sin and conquer death and then offer them the adoption." In one sense God adopted man in that He became a man. When He became human, He adopted humans but now we can receive the adoption. That's why the Bible says that by the Holy Spirit and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we await the adoption which is the redemption of our body where we can receive redemption. That is the adoption.

When we look at God adopting us, it is not from the perspective that we are not legitimate children, that He doesn't care for us, that He's not good for us. We now become a child as if He becomes our owner once we stop our sin and accept Jesus. No, what He is saying is like I would say to any of my kids that those three kids are all mine but I can say to them, "I am your physical father but if you can accept what I believe, then I can be your true father. Then I can be the father of your very thought." Because now they are physically my children but it doesn't mean that I am the father that actually infuses my spirit into them and actuates their thoughts because they have their own thoughts. They have their own minds. They do their own thing but the moment their belief system becomes the same as my belief system, then I can say to them, "Truly, now I am your father." Where they are not just my child but I am their father.

So, we, all of humanity, are the children of God but for God to be your Father, as the One who actuates your thoughts and brings, infuses, His Spirit into you, He had to do something that made that possible for man. This is what He did: He took a human, full of sin. He didn't have His own sin but He received our sin, took all of our death, conquered it, took the wrong that man could ever do to Him, which was how they rejected Him, how they beat Him, whatever wrong Adam could ever do, He didn't respond to it. There is this saying that if somebody tries to harm you and you say nothing, to a certain degree, you've conquered him. You are greater than him. Jesus was greater than anything they had done to Him when they pulled out His beard, when they nailed Him, He prayed for them. Like the Bible says, "Like a lamb brought to slaughter, He didn't say a word." In doing that, He conquered the harm man could bring to Him. He showed, "I am greater than what you can bring My way."

Plus, He became sin, died, conquered sin and death, was raised as a physical man, put at the right hand of the Father, so that we don't have to come and try and believe in make-belief when it comes to this fusion between God and us. We can now believe in God human seated at the right hand of the Father. As we believe that, we now have the same Spirit of truth inside ourselves. Now, God, from this truth, actuates and forms and shapes our life. Then He is the Father of the kindness in you. He is the Father of the goodness in you. He is the Father of the thoughts you have toward people. He is a Father and wherever there are things in your life that are not right, the beautiful thing that we can have in this is that we have the right, if we have accepted Jesus, to become the sons of God. We receive the very being of the sons of God or to call God our Father where He fathers us and where He will bring forth, by the Spirit, that new life in that area of your life. That is beautiful!

Romans 8:15 *For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* This doesn't mean that we even use the word, Abba. That's not what it means. He is saying that we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear. That talks about the Law. But we have received the Spirit of adoption which means that through this Spirit we have now adopted the life of God through the revelation that the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, put Him at the right hand of the Father and when He poured that Spirit out in Acts chapter 2 and those who believed upon Him, received that Spirit. The Bible says that through that Spirit that brings forth this fruit in our lives, our lives cry out, "God is our Father!" That is what it actually says!

Can we call God our Father? Can we say, "Abba or Daddy God?" Of course! Jesus said, "Father" because it is true. God is His Father. God is a loving Being and Jesus loves. That is why He said, "I can call God My Father with my mouth." I believe the context in Romans 15 is the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. We must realize that the Bible says in Romans 1:4-6 that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by the Spirit that raised Him from the dead. So how do we see Jesus as the Son of God? When He was raised from the dead. What does this Sonship mean? It means equality. We saw Jesus is undying and eternal and we also saw God undying and eternal. We saw God inside a human. The manifestation of His sonship where we could clearly see God is His Father when He conquered death because there was only one thing that God had. He's called the only immortal. So when Jesus was raised immortal, and God is immortal, we saw that this is the Son of God. But now He says that this Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, when we believed in Him, we received the same Spirit and that Spirit is now bringing forth the first fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

As we see this fruit in our life, our lives cry out, "God is our Father and we are now awaiting this adoption where we can even adopt immortality in the return of Jesus Christ. That is what that passage means. It's a bit different but it blesses to say, "God is my Father", because when I think of God is my Father, just from the perspective of a Father's Day kind of a message of Him being a loving Father or having the Father's heart of God that loves us, it is beautiful and heartwarming. But when I believe God as the Father of the brand new life by this truth which is Jesus, where He infuses His thoughts and His life into me, I see that the moment I say, "Abba", it immediately opens my heart for a new life, for continually staying in the new life where He brings forth His righteousness and His holiness in my life.

I'm going to end off with **Galatians 4:**

1 *Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differs nothing from a servant, though he is lord of all;*

2 *But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.*

3 *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:*

4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

5 *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

What is this adoption of sons? this is the adoption:

Romans 8:23 *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to witness, the redemption of our body.*

This adoption is the redemption from physical death. It says that He then took the law, He came as a man under the law to redeem them that were under the law that they might receive the adoption of sons which is the redemption of our bodies.

The adoption is is when we can adopt eternal life. Isn't that beautiful!

The firstfruit of that adoption is when we adopt love, joy, peace, kindness and all those kind of things when we adopt that. And the beautiful thing about that is that in this life you will see this as a truth that gets dumped into your heart, in the day that you receive Jesus, as well as a growth that takes place in the light of this revelation because there will always be a day, a time, where you seem not to see this truth. But we cannot have our lives governed by the two or three things we've done wrong. We look at the overall Spirit that is showing forth in our life and we see the love and the goodness and the kindness of God and the change is brought forth in our lives. Everybody will have a bad day, a negative day. Everybody can have that. That is just how it is.

I want to say to you that God is your Father. If you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and you start to understand the truth around that, you will find a power in that resurrection that is so great. You have the right, the authority, to receive the being of a son which implies that God is the Father. He is the One who causes you to be able to adopt His very nature and being. That is what it means to call God your Father. The powerful thing about that is that it is not by your own power because it is by the power of Him being your Father. We know that no child has asked to be here. It was the decision and the life of the Father and the power in the seed of the Father and his union with the mother that brought you forth. So the moment we believe in the union of the seed of the Father that united with the mother, which took place in the body of Jesus, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, when we behold that man, the life that comes forth in us is by the power of the life that is in the seed of God and it brings forth life in us. It doesn't matter how bad your day is. It doesn't matter how negative things happen. It doesn't matter if you lost everything or you gained everything. The power that will bring forth His life in you is His life, in the man, Jesus Christ, and that is God as our Father! Amen

PRAYER Father, I want to thank You so much that we can honor You as our Father and thank You, Lord, that You are a good God that loves us and cares for us. Thank You that You wash us and You bring forth kindness and goodness and faithfulness inside our lives. You bring forth compassion in our lives as Father. Thank You that You have come to make it possible that we can adopt Your life. We can accept Your life and adopt it to the point that it can actually live in us where You visit us with Your very being. I thank You, Lord, that as we listen to all of this we find no need, in this adoption. Who finds a need for a law? Who finds a need for rules and regulations to try and adopt the life of God? NO! We see the perfection in Jesus. We thank You for the first fruit and we also thank You that the work that You have begun, You will complete in us. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen!