

The Father Heart of God
Breaking Divisions and Overcoming an Orphaned Spirit
Jerry Marek 7/5/10

1. Jesus Reveals the Father Heart of God

- a) Jesus revealed many facets of God's name and personality, yet God's Fatherhood comes to the forefront and dominates Jesus' revelation of what God is like.

“I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it...” (John 17:26 abbreviated)

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him... He who has seen Me has seen the Father...” (John 14:7-9 abbreviated)

- b) Jesus came from the Father to reconcile us to the Father. It is through the revealing of God as Father, and our being restored to Him, that all things pertaining to life are accessible.
- c) Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can be fully restored to the Father. By this we have access again by faith into the family of God. In Christ alone we are one family, overcoming sin and division, and waiting for the hope of glory.

“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection...” (Romans 6:5)

2. The Holy Spirit Reveals the Spirit of Adoption

- a) We who were once far away are now brought near by the blood of Christ, and we are hidden in Him, the One and Only Son, and have thus received the *Spirit of Adoption*, by which we are now sons and daughters of God.
- b) If we are children of God, then we are heirs of all things that belong to God. As heirs, we need to discover our inheritance in God and God's inheritance in us. God will come to receive His inheritance from among the nations. When He comes, we will not only be received by Him, but also put in charge of all that is His.
- c) As children, we are called into a glorious relationship with our Father in Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the Father to our inner man, that we might commune and fellowship with the One who made us.
- d) A relationship with the Father will impart to us identity, hope, faithfulness, courage and the fear of the Lord. There is no greater sense of belonging than to know the Father heart of God.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we indeed suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans

8:14-17)

3. Relationship with the Father Cultivates Unity in the Church

- a) A genuine relationship with the Father also produces unity among brothers and sisters. In the knowledge of the Father we find God calling us to be of one mind, one spirit and one body in Christ. The Father promises us that if we come into true, Christ-joined unity as His children, we will attain to the revelation of Jesus Christ and our being glorified together in Him.
- b) Whenever there is disunity in the Church, it is due to the lack of knowing the Father heart of God. Growing in the knowledge of (*drawing near to*) the Father is our cure for the sinful pleasures that wage war in our members.

“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?... Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...” (James 4:1, 7-8 abbreviated)

- c) We will never experience the fullness of God until we come into unity as the beloved. This encompasses all facets of Christianity, from the very personal level of individual friendships to the great mystery of the Jews and Gentiles becoming one inheritance in Christ.

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation... so as to created in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2:14-18 abbreviated)

- d) The Father gives us Jesus as our reward, but will not give Him to us until we overcome strife and divisions, truly learning to *love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and to also love our neighbor as ourselves.*
- e) Our Father in heaven is not satisfied with giving us only some of the eternal blessings that are in Christ. He has arranged things in such a way that we may truly have access to all of Him and to all of His promises.

4. Understanding the Father's Heart

- a) The Father embraces us in affection. One of our greatest needs is to have the assurance that He enjoys us even in our weakness. The Father pursues us so that He might share His heart with us. He wants to break any spirit of shame or despair that might lie within us.
- b) The Father knows our weakness and is patient with us.

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“For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” (Psalm 103:14)

- c) The Father plans and provides for our good. He enjoys our correction, yet he corrects us in such a way as to produce love and holiness, that we would be free from shame and compromise.

“For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives... He(disciplines us) for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. (Hebrews 12:6-10)

“Children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.” (2 Corinthians 12:14)

“For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” (Matthew 6:32)

- d) The Father desires partnership with His children. He is not distant or absent. He deeply longs to do things with us. If you do not perceive God as a playful Father who takes great joy in every facet of your life, I believe He wants to greatly change your view of Him.
- e) One of the great mysteries of the Gospel is that God does not want you to do things *for* Him, rather, He wants you to do things *with* Him. He doesn't need your input. You cannot add to God. Yet, though this is true, He longs with fiery zeal that you be with Him where He is and partner with Him in what He is doing.
- f) The Father calls us forth because He alone knows our potential and His plans for us. This is true for both this age and also the age to come. God's plan for your life is authentic, unique and eternal.

“I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” (Revelation 2:17)

- g) The Father trains us without shaming us. In spiritual mentor-ship, especially among men but I'm sure women as well, there is a sort of spiritual abuse that is common when an older mentors a younger or a father mentors a son.
- h) There's a dividing line between spiritual correction/ rebuke and spiritual abuse that many have crossed. Wherever a correction/ rebuke causes shame or condemnation, it does not reveal the Father's love.

“We exhorted, comforted, and charged every one...as a father does his children” (1 Thessalonians 2:11)

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as...beloved children I warn you.” (1 Corinthians 4:14)

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“Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” (Colossians 3:21)

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

- i) The Father shall reveal His heart to His children.

“They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.” (Revelation 22:4)

“Having His Father's name written on their foreheads.” (Revelation 14:1)

- j) The vast majority of the human family has had deeply negative experiences with their earthly father. Most have not experienced the tender touch of a loving father. The void is a great source of pain that compels us to seek the revelation of God the Father. The Devil seeks to use the pain of unfulfilled longing to confuse and deceive us so we seek to answer it in wrong ways.