

What It Means To Have God as Our Father

Introduction

- A. Some of the most valuable relationships are related to family – father, mother, brother, sister, wife, husband, son, daughter.
- B. It is interesting to see that God instructs us in the relationship He has established with us by taking the title of "Father." There are at least 107 references to God as our Father in just the Gospel of John.
- C. The greatness of this relationship is summarized by the Apostle Paul.

And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. II Cor. 6:18

- 1. "I will" – the divine initiative.
- 2. "Be a Father to you" – the personal provision.
- 3. "Ye shall be my sons and daughters" – the redemptive goal.
- 4. "Says the Lord Almighty" – the infinite resource.

I. The Foundation of this Relationship: A Redemptive Choice.

- A. An eternal loving choice.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us in the heavenly realms every spiritual blessing in Christ. He chose us in him before the creation of the World, to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love. . . Ephesians 1:3,4

- B. A personal gracious redemption.

Blessed be the God and Father . . . wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:3,6,7

II. The Evidence of this Relationship: Salvation.

- A. Salvation is a reversal of relationships.

- 1. Before salvation Satan was our father.

Ye are of your father the devil . . . John 8:44

- 2. After salvation the Lord God is our Father.

And I will be a Father unto you . . . II Cor. 6:18

- B. Salvation is a new birth.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope. . . . I Peter 1:3

III. The Explanation of this Relationship: Adoption.

Praised be to the God and Father ... He predestined us to be adopted as his through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will....
Ephesians 1:3,5

IV. The Security of this Relationship: Preservation.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. John 6:39 (KJV)

V. The Purpose of this Relationship: Redemptive Fellowship.

A. As our Father He seeks to rescue us.

Who (the Lord Jesus) gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of God and Father.
Galatians 1:4

B. As our Father He seeks to lead us into fellowship with Himself.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ. I John 1:3

C. As our Father He seeks to enable us to live for His glory.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

VI. The Exhortations Related to this Relationship: Loving Trust.

A. We are to pray in faith.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to thy Father, who is unseen.

Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you
Matthew 6:6

B. We are to worship in spirit and truth.

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. John 4:23

C. We are to reverence the Father by obedience.

A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 1:6

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

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