

Sermon Text Discussion 6/5/2016

“Trusting God as Our Father” by Eric Bobbitt

Overview

Fatherhood is understood by its functions: begetting, generating, life-giving, and authoritative. Inherent in those roles are the rights to command and control. Our individual ability to correctly relate to God in those ways has been impacted by a range of function/dysfunction with our earthly fathers and our own sin.

We can see in scripture at least four strong outlines for how God relates to us as Father:

1. Redeeming = Gal 3:29-4:7
2. Responsive = Matt 7:7-11
3. Compassionate = Luke 15
4. Disciplining = Hebrews 12:5-11

As we work through God’s word, we are driven to respond with honor, trust, and obedience as we realize we are rebels who have been adopted through the sacrifice of Christ.

Quotations

“Far the most important thing we can know about George MacDonald is that . . . an almost perfect relationship with his father was the earthly root of all his wisdom. From his own father, he said, he first learned that Fatherhood must be the core of the universe. He was thus prepared in an unusual way to teach that religion in which the relation of Father and Son is of all relations the most central.”— C.S. Lewis, [George MacDonald: An Anthology](#)

Understanding & Application

What do I long for in terms of a Father and a home?

What is the greatest impediment to me more fully embracing God as my Father?

What does it say about the Father’s disposition toward me that He sacrificed His own Son for me?

Do I live before the Lord as a slave (rather than an heir) or an orphan (rather than a son or daughter)?

Are there ways I doubt that my Heavenly Father is gracious, generous, and has the best in mind for me?

How has my relationship with my dad reinforced a biblical understanding of God as my Father?

Have I allowed aspects of my relationship with my dad to hinder experiencing my Heavenly Father as He truly is?

Am I hesitant to “return home” because I believe my Father won’t welcome me?

When do I lose sight of the loving intentions of my Heavenly Father’s disciplining hand?

How have I recently experienced the “peaceful fruit of righteousness” as a result of the Lord’s discipline?