

Names of God from the Bible

53 – The Father

We've looked at God as the Everlasting Father and now I want us to examine the term, Father. We refer to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so for the next three studies, I want us to reflect on each Name separately.

Reading: John 14:1-14

I find it interesting that John, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved', is the one who seems to highlight this Name more than anyone else, both in his Gospel record and in his letter.

John highlights the relationship Jesus had with His Father. John wanted everyone who read his Gospel to come to a personal conviction that Jesus was God and, in showing the intimate relationship Jesus had with God as His Father, John was declaring that Jesus is God.

In one sense it can be argued that God, the Father, only became God, the Father, at the incarnation of God, the Son. In Psalm 2 we read, *"I will proclaim the Lord's decree – He said to me, 'You are My Son: today I have become Your Father.'*

As we have already seen, God is Spirit; consequently, any human designation is going to be inaccurate. God the Father was eternally existent, just as God the Son was.

I want us to consider two relationships: 1) God is Father to the Son and 2) We, human beings, can enter the same relationship. Until we understand these two profound theological and spiritual issues, we will not fully understand our position in Christ as believers.

1) God is Father to the Son.

Without Christ, God is not the Father. God remains God. A Spirit, a seemingly aloof Being, albeit benign, nevertheless unapproachable and fear inducing.

However, God is Father, as revealed in the Son. The question therefore arises: what is the relationship like between the Father and the Son? How is it different from God and humans?

God is love, faithful, others-centred, extravagantly generous, pure, light, righteous and holy. Unlike us, who are unloving, unfaithful, self-centred, stingy and hoarding, impure, wicked, unrighteous and contaminated by the things of this world. But Jesus is like the Father. He is also as spotless, pure, righteous and holy. We cannot approach God in our sinful state; Jesus can in His righteousness.

God loves the Son. In fact, God loves His Son so much that He desired many more like Him. Paul reminds us in Romans that God predestined that we should be *"conformed to the image of His Son."* That we would be like Jesus.

God said of Jesus, *"This is My Son in whom is all My delight"*. In other words, every time I look at Him, I am thrilled to bits; I'm ecstatic! As the writer to the Hebrews says, God wants to bring many 'sons to glory'. In other words, God wants many, many more people, like Jesus, to share Heaven.

God has 'invested' everything in His Son. As Jesus said, "I and the Father are One".

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2) We, human beings can enter the same relationship.

Isn't that awesome? Though we are weak, sinful, wayward human beings, God wants to treat us the same way as He treats His Son. He wants to, He can and He will. How can that be? Through the death of His Son, God imputes to us the righteousness of His Son.

Consequently, whenever God looks at one of Jesus' believers, He doesn't see us as we do. He sees us through the 'filter' of His Son. He looks at you and me today, and sees 'Jesus' and exclaims, "Wow, what a wonderful Child of Mine. You are beautiful, you are unique, you are very, very special, and I love you with all My heart!"

We have every right to enter the Presence of God – the Holiest Place, the Throne room of the Almighty – and say, "*Abba, Father*", "Daddy". What a privilege! What an amazing blessing!

Just as God had 'invested' everything in His Son, so now it is all invested in us.

What does that name mean for us today

Though we are unworthy and helpless, because of what Jesus has accomplished for us on the Cross, we can run straight to God as Father, climb up on His knee and be hugged by Him. Perfect love casts out all fear.

Prayer

Father. Oh, how wonderful it is for me to be able to use that Name. Thank You so much and thank You, Jesus. Amen.

Additional Readings

- John 17:1-26
- John 20:11-18
- 1 John 3:1-10

Questions

1. What difference does being able to call God, *Father*, make to your relationship with Him?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus make it possible for us to use that Name?