

The World Needs Fathers

(preached F-day 6/16/24)

When you and I were Saved **God went from being our Judge to being our Dad** and yes, there's a difference.

A JUDGE MUST BE COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE, removing all emotions from his decisions. His complete job is to interpret the Law and rule accordingly, regardless of who the person is standing before him.

Thus *the accused that's brought before him could be someone he loves or someone he hates*. It could be the President or an unknown homeless person.

None of that is supposed to matter—if the perp has been accused of stealing, the judge determines guilt and assigns a sentence based only upon what the Law has already legislated.

Whoever comes to stand before God the Judge on Judgment Day, He will determine their fate based on the very Law He wrote and gave to Moses back at Sinai. Let's just take the 10 commandments even though there's a lot more. Suppose JD has arrived and someone stands before Him who has stolen, lied, disrespected parents, and taken God's name in vain. Another person has committed adultery, worshipped money, and spent time envying the lifestyles of others more well off than they.

God the Judge will read off the 10 commandments and it will be obvious to all that these people violated several of them, many times in their lives. God the Judge, whose primary goal is perfect justice, will then pass sentence upon these people that won't be favorable to them...because they're guilty.

What about God the Father? Suppose the two people standing before Him on JD are His Son and His Daughter? His standard of justice, which are His commandments, is still the same.

YET THERE'S A GREATER BOND WITH ANYONE THAT HE CALLS HIS KID. Their status isn't the same as someone outside the family.

We do the same thing here. If someone in our family says something insulting about our parents we don't like it even though we might agree. If someone outside the family says something bad about our parents, God forbid! Even if what they say is spot on, we become offended.

When we're part of God's family then He's our Dad and **He applies His commands differently.** The non-family perp standing before Him is declared guilty and is sentenced to prison.

When His son or daughter stands before Him, even after they've violated His commands, He's already forgiven them. He may discipline them, but He doesn't pass sentence and condemn them.

HE DOESN'T JUDGE THEM ACCORDING TO HIS LAW, HE JUDGES THEM ACCORDING TO JESUS.

This is why we need Jesus.

[2Co 5:21 NLT] 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Jesus was the perfect Son. He never disobeyed Dad even once. He completely restrained Himself from all evil, and He only did good for His people. He glorified Dad and carried out His mission here on earth.

Father declared in an audible voice: ***“this is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased!”***

In an amazing act of LOVE God made the offer—through Jesus—**for all of us to become part of His family** by....

HOW? **How could we possibly become His kids?** What must we DO to make Him our Father?

Think of your dad right now...**what did you DO to become his kid?**

You were born.

Being born: **IS THAT SOMETHING YOU CAUSED?** You inspired? Did you restrain yourself from evil in order to be born? Did you do a bunch of good things?

So what must we do for God—the Creator of the Heavens and Earth—to actually become our Dad? Jesus was BORN as Father's Son and He lived up to the label of Son of God 100%.

We must be BORN...AGAIN.

How? Biologically, it's too late.

So Father God made it so that if we **just believe in His First Son Jesus**, our old spirit self would die and then rise from the dead and be completely different!

DO WE NEED TO RESTRAIN FROM EVIL to accomplish this? No. Do we need to do a bunch of good to arrive here? No.

We just need to believe in the One Who did: Jesus Christ.

Remember *we're not here to satisfy God the Judge*, because we can't.

It's God the Father Who needs satisfaction...and *He was completely satisfied with Jesus*.

Out of amazing Fatherly love and grace, He chooses to adopt us as His own:

[Rom 8:15-17 ESV] 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of **adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

The world needs more fathers who are made in the image of God their Father. Dads who have God's commands as their moral standards, but deal with their kids as fathers: disciplining them, teaching them about Jesus, and equipping them to fight the spiritual battles the devil has brought to this world.

Father's who make a way for their kids to come to Jesus and be part of the Lord's divine family.

A dad will **sacrifice his youth and health** on the factory floor, the shop, store, office, and the farm to provide for his kids.

A dad will **step between his kid** and anyone who would bring them harm.

A dad will **TEACH CERTAIN LIFE SKILLS** that he knows will benefit his kids in the future.

All in all, a dad's job is to CLEAR THE PATH for his family. He'll make a way through anything that obstructs the road and take out any enemies lying in wait along the way.

The #1 job of a dad is to clear the path to Jesus Christ because many obstructions and enemies are there to block, turn aside, and hinder.

[1Jo 2:13-14 ESV] 13 I am writing to you, fathers, **because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you,** young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

For all the fathers gathered here today: YOU KNOW HIM. He has made you strong, the Word of God abides within you, and you have overcome the evil one!