

Receiving the Blessing of the Father

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Good morning. Happy Father's Day to all our fathers, stepfathers, fosters dads, grandfathers, and spiritual fathers! We honor you this morning. We appreciate you!

(Here's a story about asking Tracy's dad when I asked for his blessing to ask her to marry me.)

- looking for a start
- small house
- you have my blessing
- hand shake hug

Today I would like to talk to you about **"Receiving the Blessing of the Father."** While I believe each of you will be blessed by today's message. I'd like to speak directly to our fathers this morning.

God has put you in the position you are in as a father to bless your children. To be a blessing to your children.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

(Then the story takes a dramatic shift.)

(John baptizes Jesus in the name of your dad, you, and your best friend.)

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

This is Jesus receiving the blessing of the father. This is a public affirmation, public approval, of God the Father to Jesus the Son.

Jesus was in conversation with the Father throughout his entire life on earth, but this is a unique moment. This is one of three recorded moments like this where the father's voice speaks to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Matthew 17:5

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

John 12:28

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

This is an important moment.

I think this phrase is very important for us. It shows us three primary ways the Father engages the Son. If you add the verse before where God provides the Holy Spirit, we actually have a model of four things the Father does toward the Son.

- 1. Ownership**
- 2. Loves**
- 3. Finds pleasure in**
- 4. Equips**

These four things are the things the father does and the ways the father feels toward the son.

I’d like to use these four principles as a model for us to copy in the way we engage our children. To be practical I think these are the four most important things you can work on in your parenting. They are the things you should do for your children and the way you should feel about them. These are four powerful principles for parenting that you can apply immediately to your life and see instant results.

Your children are hardwired to desire these things from you. Some of you are in the trenches of raising children; some have children out of the house. Every child, no matter the age, desires to receive these blessing from the father.

I’d like to suggest that this is a model for our fathers as to how we are to interact with and bless our children

Matthew 3:17

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

1. The Father shows ownership of the Son.

Illustration: Toy Story - Andy writes his name on the bottom of their shoes.

This is my Son.

Jesus was confident of this.

John 10:30

“I and the Father are one.”

Are you claiming ownership of your children? This should never be for sale.

I have used ownership in quiet bonding moments; I am so glad you’re mine.
I have used ownership in heated arguments; because you are mine.

2. The Father loves the Son.

We find in scripture that Jesus was completely convinced of the Father’s love for him.

1 John 4:8

. . .because God is love.

But what does this love look like? How can you describe it?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

And in the gospel of John, Jesus speaks several times about the Father’s love for him:

John 3:35

“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.”

John 5:20

“For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.”

Do you love your children? Just look at the first descriptor. Are you patient with your children?

3. The Father finds pleasure in the Son.

Root word for “delights in.”

When God looks at the son he enjoys and admires who he is.

He was perfect in character, perfect in obedience, perfect in love. What's not to like?

When our children are young, finding pleasure in them is often a self-denying or a sacrificial mercy. To find pleasure in them, you sometimes have to find it.

(Picture that looks like a brownie.)

Pleasure: My dad has a series of laughs. They range in intensity. This is probably common with most people - some of you have that one family member that you love it when they get going. It's that laugh that you can't control, you can't hold back, there's no filter, volume control is out the window, tears are flowing, there is no concern or care for who hears, how many tables over can hear at the restaurant, and there's no timer, this laugh is going to continue until it decides it is over.

I love making my dad laugh like that. Not just because something I said might have been humorous, but because I said it to him, and he thought what I said was humorous.

Do you find pleasure in your children? Do they know it?

4. The Father equips the Son.

John 12:48-50

⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

Jesus talked like his dad.

John 5:19-20

¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does."

Jesus acted like his dad

The father had given the son what to say and what to do.

Are you equipping your children?

Make investments. Your child is not going to the NFL, PGA, world cup, or Nascar.

Football player 8th grade

Bible quizzing

Make investments in your time and in your budget, to pour into your children the things that will cause them to be men and women of God.

I'd like to turn a corner as we close today because I think this has been a straightforward message. Four things God the Father did for God the Son. Use this for a model for how the earthly fathers can love their children. To use this a model, dads work on these four things.

I'd like to suggest that for many of you, you can't do these things. Because you have no problem believing that God the Father felt this way about Jesus, and you have no problem agreeing that you should treat and feel about your children this way.

But you cannot bring yourself to believe that God thinks this way and acts this way and feels this way toward you.

You cannot own your children, and love your children, and find pleasure in your children, and equip your children the way that you ought until you experience the ownership, the love, the pleasure and the equipping of God the Father for yourself.

We so often view God through the lens of our earthly fathers, don't we? Maybe not just your father, but your mother or some other authority figure.

How much does the father love you? This son that he loved so much he gave himself up for you.

Romans 8:32

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all . . .

Closing