

Happy Father's Day

June 16, 2019

Appreciating

Today let's spend our time appreciating the fatherhood of God over us. If we spend our lives praising God for who He is, invariably we will grow to become more like Him over time.

Be Encouraged

In Exodus chapters 33 and 34 Moses learns who God is and what He is like, just before God leads the Israelites into the land. These traits serve as a wonderful model for fathers here on earth, but they aren't intended to be a guilt trip that shames us into better performance. Instead, they should encourage all God's children with the wonderful news of our perfect parent who cherishes, values, and adores us.

He is Pleased

My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it. – Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

Lightning

Somewhere along the line many of us got the idea that God the Father is angry—and He's sitting up in heaven on a cloud, keeping score all the time. He has a list of laws and rules in one hand and a lightning bolt in the other. He's just waiting for you to screw up. And when you do?

God is a Pleased Father

¹⁷ The Lord replied to Moses, “I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name.” NIV says, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you...”

God Rejoices Over Us

The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

He is a Gracious Father

The world judges us on our performance, but God's judgment is swallowed up by His grace. His grace changes the rules on all things. He lavishes His best on us even though we have done nothing to deserve it.

He Saved Us by Grace

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

He is Gracious

“Yahweh! The Lord!

The God of compassion and mercy!

I am slow to anger

and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations.

I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.” Exodus 34:6-7 (NLT)

Response

Exodus 34:8 directs us to the proper response to the greatness of God our Father and it is not self-pity, guilt and shame, or a resolve to be better. It is the one way that head knowledge can become heart response and that is worship. Verse 8, “Moses immediately threw himself to the ground and worshiped.”