



THEOLOGY OF MANHOOD

SESSION 5

FATHERHOOD

God is Father

There is one God who has eternally existed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God isn't just like a father – He is Father.

Father in the Old Testament

- *Father describes God within a covenant relationship with Israel*
 - **Isaiah 63:16** – “For you are our **Father**”
 - **Isaiah 64:8** – “But now, O LORD, you are our **Father**”
 - **Jeremiah 31:9** – “for I am a **father** to Israel”

Father in the New Testament

- Father is 3rd most used term of God in the New Testament
- Father is used 250 times in the New Testament
- Father is used in the gospel 165 times

*Father is used over **100** times in John's gospel, which emphasizes Jesus' divinity as the eternal Son of God. Jesus uses it as he prays to the Father.*

The Father and The Son

- **Luke 10:22** – “no one knows...who the **Father** is except the Son”
- **John 11:41-42** – “**Father** you have heard me”
- **John 12:27** – ““**Father**, save me from this hour’?”
- **John 12: 28** – “**Father**, glorify your name.”
- **Luke 2:49** – “my **Father's** house”
- **Matthew 5:45** – “your **Father**” (to disciples)
- **Matthew 6:9** – “Our **Father** in heaven” (*in prayer*)

The Father and Son are eternally father and son

John 17:5 - “And now, **Father**, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

Group Discussion Questions:

What difference should the understanding that God is Father make in your life?

What does it look like to cultivate a relationship with God as your Father?

Jesus bring us into this eternal relationship with His Father

John 17:24-25 – “**Father**, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.”

“My father” becomes “Our Father” and even “Your Heavenly Father.”

God becomes our Father through the legal act of adoption

The Father set His adoptive love on us

Ephesians 1:5 – “he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ

The Son fulfills the demands for our adoption

Galatians 4:4-7 – “to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

The Spirit is the presence of God’s adoptive love

Romans 5:5 – “because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Romans 8:15-17 – “but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”

God as Father is a reality through adoption

1 John 3:1-3 – “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now...”

Group Discussion Questions:

Why do we struggle to believe God delights in us?

How should the doctrine of adoption in Christ affect our understanding of God's love for us?

Fathers Establish Identity in the Lord

God established identity of Son Israel

Numbers 6:27 – “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Genesis 12, 15, 17, 27 – God names and blesses Abraham

Genesis 49 – fathers bless sons, passing down name and identity

God gives us the name of the son whom He loves

Matthew 3:17 – “and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

John 17:11-12 – “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

Fatherhood and the Image of God

Genesis 5:1-3 – “This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the **likeness of God**. Male and female he created them, and he **blessed** them and **named** them Man when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, **he fathered a son in his own likeness**, after his image, and **named** him Seth.”

Fatherhood and Identity in The Lord

We use authority to establish identity

Ephesians 6: 1-3 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’”

Our misuse of authority skews identity

Ephesians 6:4 – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...

- Misuse of authority = overbearing and emotional or distant and passive.
- God becomes an overbearing tyrant or an irrelevant concept in their life

Authority, grace, and identity in the Lord

Ephesians 6:4 – “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

AUTHORITY IS GRACE!

- Authority defines grace...
- is common grace...
- leads to spiritual grace

All of life – *“Where men are passive, Satan will be active, and chaos will ensue. Subdued the chaos for the Supremacy of Christ in all things!”*

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Evangelism | • Discipleship |
| • Spiritual Disciplines | • Family Worship |
| • Local Church Membership | • Theology |
| • Sexual Purity | • Christ-Centered Education |
| • Work Ethic | |

A Pattern for correction

Hebrews 12:11 – “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the **peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

- **The way is the goal** (Proverbs 22:6; John 14:6)
- **Establish authority** (Ephesians 6:1-3)
- **Teach what is right** (Ephesians 6:1)
- **Correct what is wrong** (Proverbs 23:13-14; 29:15; 22:15)
- **Practice what is good** (Ephesians 6:4)
- **Love!** (Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:24)
- **Don’t forget the gospel!** (Proverbs 19:18)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS :

Why is it important to think about your role as a father in terms of establishing identity and not just specific responsibilities or tasks as a dad?

How should our understanding of the gospel affect not only our roles as fathers?

Questions | Homework

Read: Romans 8

Memorize: 1 John 3:1-3

How would you define fatherhood? What is a father? What specific responsibilities do you believe a father must have in the life of their children?

Do you struggle to see God as your father? Why do you think this is?

Do you struggle to believe God delights in you as a son in Christ? Why?

How should an understanding of the theology of adoption in Christ lead you to further embrace God's delight in you?

How should an understanding of God as your father change your relationship with God? How should the reality of God as Father transform the way you pursue God in spiritual disciplines and worship?

As a father, would you describe the presence of authority as overbearing or passive?

What insecurities or negative behaviors do you see in your kids' lives because of your overbearingness or passivity?

To correct your overbearingness and/or passivity, what are some ways you can assert authoritative grace in their life?

Are there areas of parenting that you have consciously or subconsciously delegated to your wife in which you need to be more involved?

What practices should you implement or be more consistent in to raise your kids in the instructions of the Lord?

Why is it important to think about your role as a father in terms of establishing identity? Are there ways you have become more focused on your tasks as a father and neglecting the importance of establishing identity in the Lord for your kids?

In what areas do you need to be more present in your kids' lives? What would be some good daily routines or practices to ensure you are more present in your kids' lives?

Write a letter to your kids using pen and paper that communicates three things:

“I love you.”

“I’m proud of you.”

“I’m glad I’m your dad.”