

“Getting Acquainted With Your Father”

Introduction

How well do you know your father? Do you spend much time with him, or did you when he was living? Can you describe him? Do you know what he would say about a particular situation in your life right now?

How about your heavenly father? Do you spend much time with Him? Can you describe Him? Do you know what He thinks about the issues in your life right now? What is your relationship like with Him?

Let’s answer some essential questions to become better acquainted with our heavenly father.

I. How Do We Get into God’s Family?

This is the primary question for everyone because all need God’s salvation. There are two pictures of entering God’s family, birth and adoption. They happen at the same time to all who put their faith in the work of Christ for salvation.

- A. By the New Birth: John 3; 1 John 3
- B. By Adoption: Romans 8:14-15; Galatians 4:4-7

II. How Has God Revealed Himself?

To become acquainted with our heavenly father, we must know how He has revealed Himself.

- A. Through General Revelation: Psalm 19:1-6
- B. Through Special Revelation
 - 1. Dreams, Visions, Theophanies: e.g. Daniel 4
 - 2. The Bible: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-13; 2 Peter 1:16-21
 - 3. Jesus Christ: John 1:18

III. What Has God Revealed About Himself?

To become acquainted with our heavenly father, we must know what He has revealed about Himself. He has not revealed everything, but He has revealed much. Our emphasis is on the truth about God revealed in the texts that speak of God as “Father.”

- A. His Holiness: Matthew 6:9
- B. His Righteousness: John 17:25
- C. His Sovereignty: Isaiah 64:8
- D. His Mercy: Psalm 68:5; Psalm 103:13
- E. His Salvation: Jeremiah 31:1-9
- F. His Guidance: 1 Thessalonians 3:11
- G. His Love: 1 John 3:1
- H. His Discipline: Hebrews 12:5-6;
See Deuteronomy 8:5-6 and Proverbs 3:11-12.

IV. How Should We Respond to God’s Self-revelation?

- A. By Faith in His Son: John 20:30-31
- B. By Fear in Our Walk: Deuteronomy 8:6
Fearing God includes awe, obedience, and worship.
See 1 Peter 1:17.

Conclusion

Who God is determines who we are. Since He is the creator, we are the creation. Since He is the Savior, we are the redeemed. Since He becomes our Father when we come to faith in Christ, we are His children. And that is a position with great and eternal benefits.

Specific Actions to Take This Week

1. Get better acquainted with your heavenly father by setting aside a time for extended prayer and meditation. Start by reading a Psalm such as Psalm 23; 90, 91, 92, etc., then talk to God in response to what you read.
2. Tell someone how great your heavenly father is.

Bruce McLain, California Association of Regular Baptist Churches