

Know the Father

JUNE 18, 2017

I. OUR GOAL IN LIFE SHOULD BE TO KNOW GOD JOHN 17:1-3

A. We have many goals in life

1. We want to get a good education
2. We may want a certain salary
3. We want a house, a car, retirement
4. Church;
 - a) To grow in the Lord
 - b) To grow in the Word
 - c) To experience the presence of God
 - d) To walk in a certain ministry

B. Jesus tells us that the nature of eternal life is to know¹ God....not just live forever

1. In order to “know” God we must allow him to know us (Matt 7:21-23)
 - a) This is followed by the house on the rock
 - b) To allow him to know us is to allow the Word to be built in us
2. The more we know him the more he can manifest his life in us and through us

II. TO KNOW GOD WE MUST KNOW THAT HE IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A FATHER

A. Eph 3:14-15 The Father idea flows from God not man

B. This is one of the most difficult things for many people to walk in

1. They can accept Jesus and the Holy Spirit
2. Because of problems with natural fathers they cannot relate to God the Father
3. This is the result of a concerted effort on the part of the devil to
 - a) Break down the father in as many families as possible
 - b) Emasculate our culture so that the male image as a whole is corrupted
4. The problem is that we cannot fully know the life God wants us to know without knowing God and we cannot know God without understanding him as Father

C. Although the Father is known in the Old Testament He is really brought to light in the ministry of Jesus

1. According to Naves Topical Bible there are 16 references to God as Father in the Old Testament
2. There are over 130 references to God as Father in the New Covenant
3. The Old Covenant was the Covenant of Jehovah while the New Covenant is the Covenant of “Abba, Father”

¹ 1) to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive, feel

3) Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman

4) to become acquainted with, to know

D. Whether we had good fathers, bad fathers or just fathers who were less than perfect we need to begin to judge fatherhood by our Father God not our Father God by our experience with natural fathers

E. We also need to model our fatherhood (and motherhood) both spiritual and physical after God the Father

III. WHO IS GOD THE FATHER

A. He is the creator Gen 1:26 **this statement echoes through eternity and is expressed in every human being born into the world**

1. Every father passes on his life in creation
 - a) Some fathers did not desire to have children
 - b) Some fathers yearn for the immortality of passing on who and what they are
2. God was moved by his need to love and creation with man at the center was the result

B. He is the savior of man separated from him John 3:16

1. He had a son, but he would not sacrifice (abandon) his family
2. He and the son were one so the Father's sacrifice was the Son's and the Son's the Father's
3. He is a Father who would not withhold his best for his Children Romans 8:31-35)

C. He is a Father who gives good things to his children Luke 11:9-13

D. He is a Father who cares enough to chasten us when we need it Heb 12:7-11

E. He is a Father who has fully adopted us legally into his family (Rom 8:14-17)

1. We are born of God, but we are also adopted of God (Legal term)
 - a) Because we are born of him we have his spiritual "genetic makeup"
 - (1) Characteristics
 - (2) Abilities (limited by our finiteness)
 - (3) This is powerful but:
 - b) Adoption is by choice (John 1:12-13)
2. This legal standing means
 - a) We no longer have to fear life
 - b) We are led by the spirit
 - c) We have an "Abba" as well as a Father
3. The Holy Spirit within us tells us this is true
 - a) When we sense the spirit within
 - b) When we pray in other tongues

F. He is a Father who hears and answers prayers (John 16:23-24) **pays attention to you**

1. Jesus himself tells his disciples they will not longer have to ask him but they will be able to ask the Father
2. The criterion for answered prayer: That your joy may be full

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IV. HE IS MY FATHER AND HE LOVES ME

- A. Jesus tells the disciples “the Father *himself* loves you” (John 16:25-28)
 - 1. Jesus wants his disciples to know this truth**
 - 2. Today he wants you to hear it as well****
- B. He tells the women specifically that He is ascending to His Father and Their Father (John 20:17)**