

When You Think About God. What Do You Think About?

Outline – June 18, 2023 Psalm 68:4-5, Matthew 6:9, Romans 8:15-17 A Relationship With God

I. Some Thoughts/Descriptions Many Will Have

- A. Impersonal cosmic force... Higher Power
- B. A "sweet ol grandpa" ...not that relevant
- C. A deity that keeps a record of "hits and misses"
- D. An angry deity waiting for one to get out of line
- E. A heavenly butler...Like Siri or Alexa
- F. How you see God is a reflection of how you see
 - 1. Yourself
 - 2. Life
 - 3. Your earthly dad
- G. If you have a flawed view of God, you have a flawed view of life

II. God is Not Silent in This Conversation

- A. God has revealed Himself in many ways
- B. God revealed Himself in Messiah
 - 1. An exact representation of His Glory
 - 2. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus

III. The Primary Emphasis Jesus Made About God

- A. He is our Heavenly Father
 - 1. Almost 200 references in the gospels
 - 2. At the baptism of Messiah, God declared "This is my beloved Son"
- B. We are "hard-wired" to want our dads to bless us
 - 1. "Dad, did you see what I did?"
 - 2. "Did you like what I did?"
 - 3. That never fully goes away
 - 4. When that doesn't happen, there is an emptiness within
- C. Jesus taught us when it comes to your Heavenly Father, you have His blessing
 - 1. When you embrace His Son, He never leaves you
 - 2. You are now His forever, and the opportunity for an abundant life can be yours.

IV. Here is the Problem

- A. The enemy is going to do everything to destroy fatherhood
 - 1. This generation is called the "fatherless generation"
- B. The enemy seeks to distort, disrupt, and destroy the concept of fatherhood
 - 1. The enemy creates stumbling blocks
 - 2. As fatherhood breaks down our relationship with God breaks down
 - 3. 40 million have left the faith/church/belief since the year 2000
 - 4. At the same time fatherhood has struggled to maintain importance

V. Six Types of Fathers Have Emerged in the Past 40 Years

- A. The Six Types:
 - 1. The absent dad...not present in the equation
 - 2. The abusive dad
 - 3. The "performance-based" dad
 - 4. The passive dad (present, but not in the story)
 - 5. The antagonistic dad
 - 6. The empowering dad b v
- B. What child predators know

VI. The Problem Many Have

- A. A distorted image of God due to their earthly father
- B. The wounded, abandoned, unloved

VII. God is a Father to the Fatherless (Psalm 68:5-6)

- A. He adopts us as His
- B. He tells us to ask, seek and knock
- C. He opens the doors to life that have been closed off to us
- D. He knows how to bless us if we trust Him

VIII. How God Sees Us

- A. A perfect matchless love
 - 1. Many don't believe that
- B. God paid the greatest price to show His love
- C. No longer slaves to our sin, past, failures
- D. I am a child of God
 - 1. Disappointments don't define us
 - 2. Difficulties don't define us
 - 3. Doubts don't define us

IX. How God Wants Us to See Him

- A. As our perfect Heavenly Father
 - 1. A Father to the fatherless
 - 2. Our Father who will be there
 - a. When we win, lose, cry, laugh, fail, or overcome
- B. That He made us for Himself with eternal potential to make an eternal difference
- C. That He wants to be involved in our lives and spend eternity with us in His family in His Kingdom

X. How Can We Know for Sure

- A. Look at Messiah
- B. Look at the Nation of Israel
- C. Read His Word
- D. Talk to those who have embraced Messiah

**God wants a relationship with You.
He wants to be your Heavenly Father.**