

Objective: to enable every believer to live in the Father's loving embrace.

18 June 2019
NLBC a.m.
Father's Day

Embracing The Father – In Heaven & On Earth

1 John 3:1; Eph. 6:2, 3; Mal. 3:5, 6

Introduction

In this 'information age,' (Dan. 12:4 NKJV), mankind often values knowledge and its ability to enable activities, greater than what enables *relationship*, which is **love**. While knowledge is important, especially knowledge of spiritual matters, there is something greater that cannot be neglected and that is **love**. Eph. 3:17-19. *Love is the chief enabler of life*. 1 John 4:16. *When you embrace God, you embrace a Lover*. For many, they have gotten 'stuck in the mire of living,' unable to progress, simply because of the 'love deficit' in their lives. In terms of priorities for living, they are more in the mode of acquisition of knowledge and understanding, than in the lifestyle of loving. 1 John 4:7, 8; Rom. 5:5.

There is always some information you don't have, but the One who loves you has determined to disclose that information in the context of His love for you. Some, "orphaned" by life, unwittingly see God as The Great Information Bank, that they look to get knowledge from, through the 'debit card' of good works and study. God is so much more than the Great Google of Heaven. Living in His loving embrace, you are enabled to be who He made you to be.

The Source

Everything starts with The Father—the Father in Heaven. There was nothing but Him, in all of His tri-une glory, until He spoke and all that is, was created. Gen. 1:1. He is described to us primarily in the term, “The Father.” He has many other names that help us to define Who He is, and what He does, but they all begin with His Father Heart. *All earthly fathers, are meant to be a reflection of the Heavenly Father.*

- The Father is a lover – John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-12. Seeing beyond flaws, failures, sins, shame, and opposition, God-The-Father’s heart, pursues the redemption and loving embrace of all mankind. He loves you beyond what you could ever understand. *His love bridges the distance between Himself and you.* To embrace someone, you must get close enough to be ‘in arms reach.’ He places such value on you, that He would sacrifice Himself (His Son) for you. You are the most expensive that love can purchase. A Father’s love is relentless and unending—Luke 15:20.
- The Father is a teacher of wisdom for living. Prov. 4:3-8. As the ‘way of man is not in himself,’ (Jer. 10:23 NASB), all men and women must discover and embrace the wisdom of a loving father. Whenever a person, neglects or ignores the Father’s wisdom, he stumbles in the journey.
- The Father is a “blesser.” The Father spoke blessing on the Son. Mark 1:11. Over 202 times the Bible speaks of the Father blessing His children. Every child should grow up with his or her ‘father’s *spoken* blessing,” just as Jacob pronounced prophetic blessings on Joseph and his children. Gen. 48:9,15.

Often, sons and daughters, see the Heavenly Father unwittingly through the ‘wrong glasses.’ Their earthly father had no great

qualities and no great loving, that they poured into their lives. They grew up disappointed, rejected, abused, abandoned, or distant. Today, as adults, they are still hurting or angry or resentful...at best, wounded. They struggle with any earthly figure that would resemble their father and even, at times, with their Heavenly Father. They feel, deep inside themselves, that they are never good enough, they can never measure up, they will never deserve the love they so want to receive. Some of the following are the struggles that both men and women face in “Father-deficiencies,” resulting from the poor fathering they had as children:

- Inability to form wholesome and deep relationships with men—whether a man or a woman. Fathers are meant, to model and teach, how a boy or girl is to relate to men and older men.
- Inability to know how to treat a woman with love, kindness and respect – Fathers (and mothers) are meant to teach a boy or a girl how to relate to women and older women.
- Ignorant of the treasure of wisdom for living, available in ‘spiritual fathers,’ they trundle on through life making many unnecessary mistakes—an old adage says, “experience is expensive, wisdom is far, far cheaper.” That wisdom for living, available for living well, that resides in ‘fathers’ and ‘mothers’ that is often neglected, resisted, and ignored. The voices of older men and women, sound too much like the painful voice of one of their parents that they are still trying to escape from.
- Inability to develop intimacy, express wholesome affection, or care deeply for the inner needs of others. Their tear ducts are rarely used—tenderness and kindness are infrequent.

- Inability to express the necessity of standards in a loving way from a loving heart that sees the person greater than the value of law
- Inability to escape the lifestyle of 'looking for love' and replace it with a lifestyle of unselfish loving of all others. Fathers (along with mothers) release their children from the preoccupation with self, into the preoccupation with others, by their affirmation, blessing, and modelling of a loving lifestyle to their children. Living wrongfully dependent on others' praise, they often 'suck the life out of others' in co-dependent, obsessive relationships.
- Ignorant of 'how to be a father,' they pass on their deficiencies to the next generation.

Embracing the Father in Heaven and on Earth

Orphans have no 'history of the father's love.' Orphans come to The Father simply by **faith**—believing that the Father of Love can and will, heal them on the inside, so they can live *whole and like Him*, loving all others.

- They choose to forgive their earthly father for: abandoning them, being aggressive and authoritative and not loving, for being passive and not loving, for being abusive and not loving, or being 'in the home,' but absent emotionally, without loving. Some people have experienced healing in their bodies, simply because they chose to forgive their earthly father.
- They reach toward the arms of the Father, as His arms are extended toward them in healing, prayer, and ministry...accepting and receiving in themselves the healing of their wounds as He is the Great Healer of wounds of all types.

- They choose to believe **all** of His loving words about them, instead of the lies of Satan—they turn to live a lifestyle of loving.
- They seek out a ‘spiritual father’ to mentor them in living—you will only **‘yield’** your life to another, if you have forgiven and now trust. Love is self-giving, fear is self-protecting....
- They become adults that develop the loving lifestyle and are thus enabled to heal those that are the orphans and the wounded. They learn The Father’s ‘love language’ and use it all the time. They have stopped waiting for the big ‘Wow!’ of life to come along and ‘make their lives great,’ but are always seeking to bring the great life-making grace of His love to all around them.