

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL (Part 2)

Review:

Glorifying God is the same as revealing His essence to bring praise to Him
Earthly Fathers are designed to reveal the Heavenly Father
God intends to reveal His essence through earthly Fathers

Earthly fathers paint a child's first picture of God – core view of God
Character & behavior of earthly fathers forms our initial view of God
Our capacity to trust, to count on someone/thing outside of ourselves is formed based on the way fathers relate to children

(Eph 5:1) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children

(Eph.5:1)

Therefore – conclusion drawn from previous discussion, (4:20-32) series of commands to remove sinful thinking / behaviors, replacing them with spiritual virtues – ministry of God The Holy Spirit (GHS)

- He gives us a command based on the principles he has already established

Be – **ginomai** – P.M.Impv – to become, indicating a process of change

- Born into sin, developed beliefs making sin logical, practiced personal sin – now by the power of God, renew your heart to live like God – become
- Pres. Impv – standing command describing the normal Christian life – growth

Imitators – **mimetes** – to follow someone's example, to model behavior after another

- We naturally pattern ourselves after others – especially parents

As dearly loved children – **teknon** – children in a training/learning posture – disciple

- Dearly loved – beloved as in the Beloved – God loves you as His child
- As children bond with and imitate fathers, so we are to bond/imitate God.

Paul uses a well-known earthly relationship to exemplify a spiritual truth

1. God designed children to learn from and imitate their parents.

- Children copy and emulate parents as they grow and develop in life.
- Children adopt similar beliefs/behavior as what they see in their parents

2. Fathers/parents are the most influential people in our lives – form core beliefs

- Their influence forms our earliest and most basic ideas about life
- Their own temperament and orientation to life influences our own.

3. God the Father (GF) adopts every believer into His family, becoming our father & we His children

- God is the pattern for the NM in Christ – His beliefs and behaviors. Eph 4:24
- Core beliefs of NM are formed as we bond with and relate to GF through Christ
- The goal of the CWL is to become like God – beliefs & behaviors Rom 12:2

4. God wants us to exchange the influence of our earthly fathers for His own influence as our Heavenly Father.

- Erase influence of the earthly emphasis, earthly goals, priorities, etc.
- Replace with an eternal, heavenly emphasis, heavenly goals and priorities.
 - a. Even the good we learn from parents will naturally have an earthly emphasis
 - b. We must keep the good, erasing the earthly emphasis & replacing with heavenly
 - c. Before salvation, even the divine establishment principles we accept are adopted to serve ourselves, not to serve God's ultimate glory.
 - d. Becoming imitators – process of growth & change to become something different.

5. God the Father (GF) is calling on us to pursue an intimate bond and relationship with Him.

- Having become His children, become like Him in belief/behavior