

The Whole Church #22 – The Fatherhood of God, #9

AT Snacks- May 26, 2024

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Monday:

When you start to talk about the Fatherhood of God, or the concept of God as a Father, there are three problems that arise right off the bat. The first problem (which is a big one) is, everybody thinks they already know it, because they know the concept.

It's okay to know the concept, but the most important part is the experiential part. You and me, engaging in relationship with the Father, and experiencing the goodness of the Father.

Everybody knows the concept. Fewer are walking in the experiential knowledge and understanding that God is a Father. That's what we are talking about. That's where the magic happens.

It's the adventure of relating to God as Father that's the cure for everything that's wrong with mankind.

You can learn a lot of stuff about the Father by reading the Bible, but you can't know Him until you start giving Him access to your life. All legitimate ministry flows out of relationship with the Father.

If you don't know God as Father, you really don't know God.

Tuesday:

Those who just know the concept are misrepresenting God, because they're not representing God as a Father. The greatest tragedy that is happening is that God is being misrepresented.

America really is no longer considered a Christian nation, but it started off that way.

Many people think God is just a judge, but He's a **righteous** judge, according to the Bible

Many people have an endearing feeling toward Jesus, but they think God is mean, because He's been misrepresented. He's portrayed as a taskmaster, unapproachable, and never happy. We are never able to please Him. So, He's been misrepresented. It's a tragedy of the highest order.

Please take some time to read John 8:21-59. It will be a huge blessing to you, going forward.

Did you know that you're not of this world? Your citizenship is in heaven.

God loves you so much that your name was already written in the book of life. If we refuse that, the Bible says that our names are **then** blotted out. But your name is already written in the book of life.

Wednesday:

What are father issues? They are psychological issues resulting from a problem with things your father did or did not do.

- Emotional neglect: When fathers are emotionally unavailable or neglectful of children, the children may grow up feeling unloved or unimportant, leading to long-term emotional insecurities that continue throughout adulthood.
- Absence of a father figure: Whether due to death, divorce, or abandonment, absence of a father can leave a void in a child's life resulting in feelings of loss and abandonment.
- Children of fathers who are overly critical or abusive, whether mentally, physically, or sexually controlling, often internalize these negative behaviors, impacting their self esteem and sense of worth.
- Inconsistent presence: Fathers who are inconsistently present can create instability in their child, leading to anxiety and difficulty in trusting others

It's so important to not leave father issues unresolved. It's a big deal.

Thursday:

Symptoms and side effects for men: Abandonment issues / low self esteem / anger and aggression / trust issues / commitment problems / identity struggles / difficulty in parenting / emotional detachment / seeking approval / over-compensation / fear of failure / hyper masculinity / depression and anxiety / relationship dynamics / difficulty with authority / financial insecurity / fear of intimacy / self sabotage.

Symptoms and side effects for women: Low self esteem / difficulty in romantic relationships / trust issues / fear of abandonment / over-compensation / attraction to older partners / anxiety and depression / self sabotage / relationship dynamics / difficulty setting boundaries / need for validation / fear of intimacy / hyper- independence / over dependence / emotional detachment / parenting challenges / body image issues / co-dependency / substance abuse / difficulty with authority / fear of failure.

These are maybe some of the things that might have happened to you: Dad never told me that he loved me / he made me feel like I never measured up / didn't have time for me / we just couldn't get along / my dad was never around / my dad was physically or verbally or sexually abusive to me / my dad was an alcoholic or addict / my dad was belittling to me / my dad never told me I did a good job / my dad loved my siblings more than me / my dad broke his promises to me / my dad made fun of me / my dad always put the blame on me / my dad never acknowledged me as his son / my dad never supported me / my dad wasn't interested in my activities / my dad was self consumed / my dad lied to me / my dad abandoned me / my dad ignored me in favor of a second family / my dad called me names / my dad was not a spiritual leader / my dad was not a good provider / my dad was not a protector / my dad made me feel unimportant / my dad was a womanizer or unfaithful / my dad was always critical of me / I was afraid of my dad / my dad was a sorry person / my dad was abusive to my mom / my dad was disrespectful to my mom / my dad

was violent / my dad didn't want me / I don't know who my dad is.

Friday:

Our wounds that occurred as a result of something dad did or didn't do, or things that presumably occurred, is your perception of what might have happened. This is right up at the top of the enemy's list.

These things can knock you off or take you off course, in your endeavor to relate to God as Father, if you had a dad who displayed a lot of those qualities. It's an easy thing not to be able to trust God as your heavenly Father, so the enemy tries to do that right off, in your childhood.

Some of the wounds that happen are superficial wounds, but others are what I call deadly wounds, life altering wounds that can control the trajectory of someone's life. In many cases, the wounds are very deep, and have the potential of limiting the depth of relationship one has with the Father, if they have that relationship at all.

This affects every relationship we have, whether it's a family relationship, a romantic relationship, just a friendship, or professional relationship.

Unresolved father issues keep us from abandoning our hearts to the Lord, to the Father.

The awakening that's happening in the world right now is God dealing with the heart of man. One of those characteristics is your thoughts and the attitude of your mind in turning towards the Lord. That's not you. You have the opportunity to agree with that, but it's God Who is doing it.

The main thing is to cooperate, participate and to stay out of His way.

One of the big dangers is for you giving God part of your heart, that you hold part of your heart back, in large part because you had to deal with some of these things that we talked about in your life.

God's not after a piece of your heart; He wants all your heart. You can give it to Him, but the question is, will you?

If you are born again, and you give your whole heart to Him, you can have fullness of life. How many of you want the fullness of the life that God offers, to be evident in you and then through you? Unresolved father issues can keep that from happening.

Saturday:

Unresolved issues affect our trust and depth of relationship, both vertically with the Father, and horizontally, our relationships with one another.

Remember back when we talked in depth about forgiveness? Forgiveness is not a feeling you have, it's a choice that you make.

Some characteristics that cause issues with our Heavenly Father: Fill in the blank with some of these: *"God, why did you take my grandma?" / "Well, how could You let that happen?" / "If God*

is so good, why _____?” / “I hold You responsible, God, because You mishandled this situation”.

If you can look at any situation in your life that you believe God mishandled, you can't see the big picture, because God didn't mishandle it, no matter how it looks to you. If you ask the Holy Spirit to take you back to that situation without distractions, God will help you through that situation. He'll show you that He was there, and He didn't neglect you.

Do you have a judgment in your heart against God? It's got to be dealt with for you to experience the depth and the richness of the relationship that God has for you. **WE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU FORGIVING GOD!**

If you will go back there and put in the time, and let God deal with you about that, you'll come out of that thing stronger and better than you were before that ever happened.

How can our Father issues be resolved? Abandon your heart to the Father. What might seem the hardest thing to do is the only thing that will completely set you free from those father issues. Abandon your heart and run to Him.