

ABBA FATHER – PART 6 - THE OBLIGATIONS OF SONSHIP

Romans 8:12-17

June 5, 2022

Key Question: Does the Spirit of God live in you?

2 questions we need to consider again this morning:

Have you accepted God's invitation to join His family?

If you have accepted this invitation and are confident that you are one of God's children by virtue of His adoption and His choice of you, then are you living as His child? Are you seeking Him first and His righteousness?

1. The child of God must Exercise Faith

Hebrews 11:6<sup>(NIV)</sup> - "without faith it is impossible to please God."

- ☞ Consciously and intentionally entrust everything pertaining to body and soul to your heavenly Father without fear and anxiety.

Matthew 6:32<sup>(NLT)</sup> - Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

The test: Are we thankful? Or are we anxious? - It is hard to be both thankful and worried at the same time.

- ☞ Believe the gospel.

Fear and anxiety are indicative of either doubt or distrust:

- doubting that one is a child of God (even when the heart is convinced that we are, and we are able to see the truth of this in the Word of God),
- or it is a distrusting of God's power, His watchful care for you, or His goodness.

Focusing our own inability to live up to God's standards,

Or, NOT focusing on HIS grace & calling...

Psalms 37:5<sup>(NLT)</sup> - Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.

1 Peter 5:7<sup>(NLT)</sup> - Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you.

The root of most of our struggles in life: unbelief

- Unbelief with regards to the gospel,
- Unbelief with regards to God's power,

- Unbelief with regards to God's goodness, etc.

- ☞ Give Him all the Glory

Rejoice in His omnipotence, in HIS faithfulness, His wisdom, and goodness, and you will experience an amazing freedom from the burdens we so often insist on carrying. This is a crucial component for us if we desire to experience His supernatural peace.

Worship is both a gift and a privilege.

While it is not to be about US and what we get out of it, the reality is that when we truly enter into worship, we find that it really does feel great and that all of life looks better.

This is what we were made for.

2. Fear God (Holy Fear)

Honor and fear your heavenly Father with a childlike heart.

"He may be your father, but He's not your dad."

Knowing God as Father entails a proper understanding and acceptance of the *creator-creature distinction*.

We ought to delight ourselves by continually reflecting upon and acknowledging the great glory of divine majesty. <sup>(a Brakel)</sup>

Malachi 1:6<sup>(NIV84)</sup> "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty.

3. Pray Always (increasingly)

We strive for & desire INdependence, but God knows that we are at our best when we are DEpendent.

Phil. 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Romans 8:32<sup>(NLT)</sup> - Since God did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else?

James 4:2-3 <sup>(NLT)</sup> - The reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it... And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Psalms 50:15 <sup>(NIV)</sup> - Call upon me in the day of trouble.

Psalms 81:10 <sup>(NLT)</sup> - Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things.

Heb. 10:19, 22 <sup>(NIV)</sup>

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith

As a child approaches his/her human parent with confidence, not fearing rejection, so also, we must believe that God, as a Father delights to give good things to those who call on in faith. (Matthew 7:11 - If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him.)

#### 4. Willingly Submit to God's Loving Discipline (be teachable)

Submit yourself as a child to the discipline & instruction of the Lord as being the loving discipline of a Father.

Hebrews 12:4-11 <sup>(NLT)</sup>

<sup>5</sup>You have entirely forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you, His children. He said, "My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when He corrects you."

<sup>7</sup>As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children...

<sup>9</sup>Should we not... cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father?

<sup>10</sup>God's discipline is always right and good for us because it means we will share in His holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living (<sup>NIV</sup> *righteousness*) for those who are trained in this way.

*The question:* Which is more important to you: to grow in grace and in godliness, or to avoid discomfort?

#### 5. Obey God & Strive to be like Him.

1 Peter 1:14-15 <sup>(NLT)</sup> - Obey God because you are His children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn't know any better then. But now you be holy in everything you do, just as God—who chose you to be His children—is holy."

Ephesians 5:1 - Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.

#### 6. Love the Brethren.

Finally live as children in mutual love and peace, so that those outside the Family of God can see that the Spirit dwelling in you differs from the one dwelling in them.

John 13:35 <sup>(NLT)</sup> - Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

What does this mean? It is more than mere words.

Commitment:

- Family is family
- Forbearance
- Care
- Reconciliation
- Family Gatherings

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

A Truth to Remember:

If you have embraced Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, this means that you have been adopted as God's true son/daughter and He loves you more than may ever fully understand.

A Challenge to Consider:

Are you committed to living and growing as a child of God, trusting Him for all things and being committed to His people, as family?

One thing I heard this morning was...

One way I heard the gospel this morning was...