

Ephesians 3:14-15 - Relationship with God the Father

INTRO - As we gather at church on the Fathers Day start by saying Fatherhood is all about relationship. We think about the relationship we have with our father, the one we have, had...or wish we had. Relationships with dad seem to be more complicated than those with mom (?) We all have daddy issues

Today I want us to think about God the Father and our relationship to Him (is it good, bad or could be better.... or even there?) a relationship with God the Father is our greatest "daddy issue"

God as Father (in relationship to His only Son) God as Adoptive Father God is not a Grandfather

God as Father

- God has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit One God in 3 Persons
 - o Proverbs 30:4 what is His name...Sons name? Let Us.....Gen. 1:26
 - o By observation you can deduce there must be The Father... have a Son - Rom. 1:20
- Eph. 3:14-15
 - o the existence of family (*patria*) is derived from Trinity - God the Father (*pater*)
 - o we intuitively/innately know what family is and what it should be
 - we are made in God's image family/relationship is stamped upon us
 - we need a relationship with God the Father
- God the Father, is Father, primarily in relationship with His only Son
 - o The ultimate relationship is the inter-Trinitarian relationship 3 in eternal unity
 - o The Father loves the Son Matt. 3:17 John 1:18
 - In the bosom of Father (NKJV) closest relationship with the Father
 - John 17:24 You loved ME before the creation of the world
- Only in Trinity can God be love God is love (1 John 4:16)
 - o The Father loves Son. The Son loves the Father a loving relationship
 - o Judaism and Islam are diametrically opposed to Christianity on this foundational point
 - Islam -sin of shirk is to say that God has a Son-allah is alone-no love/relationship
 - Judaism - Killed Jesus because He claimed to be Gods Son (John 5:18)
 - o On this father day remember the distinctive truth of Christianity - God the Father in loving relationship with His only Son
- The Father is first in order of the relationship
 - o God the Father is first and God the Son is second and God the Spirit is third
 - All equal in eternal dignity but separate roles in the relationship
 - o The Father sends the Son and the Son obeys the Father
 - There is subordination in the relationship of the Trinity

- On father day remember the role a son is to play to his father John 14:28
- Patriarchy – not politically correct but it is the pattern from creation (*patria*- from the father)
 - o Fatherhood is attacked in society. (seen as a dispensable role) (Ex. 20:12)
 - War on fathers- church fathers, founding fathers, our fathers, God the Father
 - o Sinners hate God the Father who is pattern for all fatherhood

The one God is revealed to us as 3 persons in relationship. The Gospel is portrayed to us as the Father giving His only begotten Son and sending the Son of His love. The Son obeys the Father (subordinates) and submits to the Father's will by laying down His life. And these acts of love and obedience in relationship open the door for us to have a relationship of love and obedience with God the Father

God as an Adoptive Father

1. Jesus is God the Father's one and only Son Only begotten Son (unique and special)
2. God the Father is also an Adoptive Father (He adopts His enemies' kids – John 8:44)
 - a. Rom. 1:7 loved by God and called to be His holy people...from God OUR Father
 - b. 1 John 3:1
 - c. Rom. 8:14-16 adoption to sonship...cry out "Abba, Father"
 - d. Gal. 4:4-6 – the Trinity in unified relationship to bring us into relationship with HIM!
3. The love shared between the persons of the Trinity is shared with redeemed sinners
 - a. John 17:23 God is love and His love is shed abroad in our hearts
 - b. 1 John 1:3-4 our fellowship is with the Father and His Son....joy complete
4. You can know God as Father but only thru faith His Son
 - a. John 14:6
 - b. Gal. 3:26 sons through faith
 - c. John 1:12-13 as many as received Him He gave the right to become sons

God is not a Grandfather

- God the Father but He is not a grandfather
 - o You can only know God by direct relationship
 - o God has no distant relations
- The mistake of the Jews
 - o Since Abraham had faith and was adopted....then so am I
 - Matt. 3:9 John 8:39-44 Rom. 2:28-29
 - o Being descendants of people of faith does not impart faith
- Many presume upon that same error
 - o Heritage, membership, baptism..... (Faith of our fathers is not our faith – it is theirs)
 - o God has no grandkids
- Do you have a personal and direct relationship with God the Father?
 - o You can be adopted The Son is the only agency
- How is your relationship with God the Father good/bad/could be better?