

Revealing the Father

I. God is first and foremost a loving Father.

- A. God's first revelation of Himself (Exodus 34:5-7)
- B. There are many reasons Jesus came, but underlying all of them is the revelation of what the Father is really like (John 3:16; 14:9).
 - 1. "The earthquake that went through the soul of Jesus" - Brennan Manning (Matthew 3:16-17)
 - 2. Doing what the Father is doing (John 5:19-20)
 - 3. Jesus' deepest prayer for us (John 17:24-26)

II. We love, because God first loves us (I John 4:19).

- A. A supernatural encounter with God's love (like Jesus experienced) is available (Ephesians 3:17-20).
- B. Embracing the Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:14-17) - "Paul is really telling us that we are to feel, and I am emphasizing feeling in this sense, what our Lord Himself felt" (Martin Lloyd Jones).
- C. "The wisdom of tenderness" (Brennan Manning)

III. Fathers have great authority to release their families into tenderness with God.

- A. Most fathers severely underestimate the power they have to wound and to bless the ones they love the most (Ephesians 6:4).
- B. A key turning point in every father's life comes when he forgives everyone who has wounded him—especially his own father (Matthew 6:13-15).
- C. What a tenderized dad looks like (I Thessalonians 2:10-12)
 - 1. Encouraging the way Jesus did - confidence with discipline (Luke 9:1-6, 13, 46-50, 54-56; Luke 10:1-3)
 - 2. Comforting - Greek Lexicon: "to calm and console" (II Corinthians 1:3-4)
 - 3. Urging
 - a. Greek Lexicon: "to beseech, as in God's name; exhort solemnly"
 - b. It is possible to warn or exhort without exasperating (Ephesians 6:4).
 - c. The heart of the Father toward Israel and all of us (Matthew 23:37-39; Jeremiah 29:10-12)

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