

Fatherhood — Teaching Notes

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Father

❖ Definition:

- The first person of the Trinity; God.
- A man in relation to his natural child or children, or a man who has begotten a child [in this case God YHVH Who is the progenitor to His children through Jesus, *Yeshua* the firstborn among many brethren].
- A man who gives care and protection to someone or something [also in this case God YHVH who provides protection and care for His children].
- Abbá Father,' also used as the term of tender endearment by a beloved child—i.e. in an affectionate, dependent relationship with their father; 'daddy,' 'papa.'

Fathers Parent Differently

❖ A father's love and a mother's love are qualitatively different:

- Fathers play differently – Mothers protect and dads encourage kids to push the limits. One can tend toward encouraging risk without consideration of consequences. The other tends to avoid risk, which can fail to build independence and confidence. Children also learn self-control by being told when "enough is enough" and when to settle down. Girls and boys both learn a healthy balance between timidity and aggression.
- Fathers communicate differently – Mothers will simplify their words and speak on the child's level. Men are not as inclined to modify their language for the child. The mother's way facilitates immediate communication; the father's way challenges the child to expand her vocabulary and linguistic skills.
- Fathers discipline differently – Fathers stress justice, fairness and duty (based on rules), while mothers stress sympathy, care and help (based on relationships). Fathers tend to observe and enforce rules systematically and sternly, teaching children the consequences of right and wrong. Mothers tend toward grace and sympathy, providing a sense of hopefulness.

One

- Α "He [Jesus, *Yeshua*] is the image of the invisible God [the Father], the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15).
- Α "Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are" (John 17:11).
 - *Yeshua* is the express image of the Father. He and the Father are One.
 - He prayed that we would be one in Him just as He is one in the Father.
 - Therefore, what the Son has learned through obedience and suffering, so we also must learn through our imitating Him—which is our discipleship.

His Yoke

- ❖ "Just like the ox on which one first places a yoke in order to make it useful to the world... so too must a human being first of all submit to the yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven... and only then engage in divine service; and if this [submission] is not found in him, holiness cannot rest within him...."
 - "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).
 - Definition (gentle and lowly) – Having or showing a kind and quiet nature. Not hard, harsh, loud violent or forceful. In a humble or meek manner. In a low position, manner or degree.

Crucified with Christ

- ⌘ "Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" (Exodus 3:13).
- ⌘ "And [so] God said [*vayomer*] to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM [*Eheye Asher Eheye*]" (Exodus 3:14).
 - *Eheye* is a first person future conjugation of either the Hebrew root *hey-yud-hey* or *hey-vuv-hey*, and translated accurately has to mean 'I will be broken.'
 - The Lord is therefore saying: tell the children of Israel, I am the Son of God and 'I will be broken' for their iniquity.
 - For, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." (Matthew 26:2).

- "... For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." (1Corinthians 5:7).
- α "I have been crucified with Christ..." (Galatians 2:20).
 - "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him..." (Isaiah 53:10).
 - "He who did not spare His own Son..." (Romans 8:32).
- ❖ Therefore, what does it mean to be crucified with Christ?
 - "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:16-17).
 - "For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Philippians 1:29).
 - Otherwise, how will our heavenly Father teach us to become gentle and lowly in heart?

Grace and Discipline

- ❖ "For '*Chesed* [the attribute of grace, benevolence, or compassion] is the right arm,' and, as Scripture states, 'His right arm embraces me,' which refers to the state of God actually bringing us close to Himself, far more intensely than before."
 - "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God..." (1 John 3:1).
 - "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love" (John 15:9).
- ❖ "The Divine 'left hand' represents *Gevurah* [judgement and discipline], the Supernal attribute of severity."
 - "Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God..." (Romans 11:22).
 - "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (Revelation 3:19).
 - "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11).
 - Therefore, it is, "...the goodness [grace and discipline] of God leads you to repentance" (Romans 2:4).

Love and Fear

- ❖ "And these faculties—love and fear—are the arms and the body of the soul; love and kindness are the 'right arm,' fear and severity are the 'left arm.'"
 - "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21).
 - "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Servant and Son

- ❖ "And it is written that every man must in his divine service belong to two categories and levels, namely, the category of a servant, who serves his master out of fear, and the category of a son, who serves his father out of love."
 - "But Jesus said to him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow [the servant], and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God'" (Luke 9:62).
 - "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends [mature sons], for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).
 - We are being disciplined and transformed into 'mature sons' of YHVH. Yeshua is the template, i.e. the model whom we are to imitate. We are transitioning from servants, i.e. slaves, to friends of God.
 - No longer will we serve Him out of fear [as in the fear of transgressing the law], but we will serve Him out of love [for He has put in us a new spirit and is writing His law in our hearts and minds].

A Father to Israel

- ✚ "They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn" (Jeremiah 31:9).
 - "For I [Paul] could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises" (Romans 9:3-4).

- We are all adopted children, and we are all now called the descendants of Abraham and the seed of Isaac. There is no distinction [spiritually] between Jew and gentile, for we are spiritually 'one' in Him.
- "If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

Grafted into Israel

- α "And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree" (Romans 11:17).
 - Once saved, the gentiles are grafted into Israel. Paul uses the analogy of a cultivated olive tree, into which wild olive trees were grafted in.
 - Paul is telling us that some of the natural branches—who are Israelites—have been removed from YHVH's kingdom because of their unbelief, but you being a wild olive tree have been grafted in amongst them, which literally means that you have been grafted in amongst the Israelites.
- ❖ What does grafting therefore imply?
 - Simply, it brings two types of trees together as 'one' species.
 - But there is an even greater advantage. The resulting tree has the best of both varieties.
 - Could this have been YHVH's plan all along? That He would graft the nations into Israel—which is the root—to create for Himself 'one' people who would yield the best qualities in each of their created natures?
 - I believe so.

Earthly Fathers

- α "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).
 - Why? Because *Yeshua* instructed us to be meek and lowly in heart—Having or showing a kind and quiet nature. Not hard, harsh, loud violent or forceful. In a humble or meek manner. In a low position, manner or degree.
 - And, our children will imitate us.

A Father to the Fatherless

⚔ "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation" (Psalm 68:5).

References

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