

Viewing God As a Perfect Father

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This week, I want to discuss the theme of God as a perfect Father. It is my perspective that the imperfect examples of parenting negatively affect how people view God.

Two weeks ago, we discussed the concept of "Seeing Our Father's Expectations." In that article, we acknowledged the following facts—(1) we are saved by God's grace and (2) since we are saved by God's grace, He has expectations of us.

Last week, we discussed the concept of "Why Does Our Heavenly Father Have Expectations?" In that article, we discussed that our loving Father wants His children to have an abundant life.

Let's spend a few minutes viewing God as a perfect Father.

Vast difference

Have you ever considered the vast difference between human fathers and our Heavenly Father?

Let's notice some reasons why many parents correct their children.

- To make the child's life better
- To make the parent's life better
- To make the child more pliable to the parent's schedule
- To avoid disrupting the parent's plans
- To avoid disrupting the parent's recreation
- To impress other people
- To avoid embarrassment around other people

Now, let's consider how many of those reasons correspond to a reason that God corrects His children. For the record, I believe that one of those reasons applies to God—to make the child's life better.

How do you view God?

Someone could ask: Is it okay to want to please God?

My answer: Actually, it is appropriate for us to want to please God. However, what is your motivation for wanting to please God?

It is important that disciples do not transfer their dysfunctional feelings toward their physical parents onto God as a Father.

Some people deal with overbearing parents and therefore they view God from a fear perspective. Do any of you seek to please God for the following reasons:

- To avoid His anger?
- To avoid Him verbally abusing you?
- To avoid Him hitting you?

Other people deal with neglectful parents (especially emotional neglect) and therefore they view God from a worthiness perspective.

Do any of you seek to please God for the following reasons:

- To get Him to show you some attention?
- To get Him to show you some tenderness?
- To get Him to fill an emotional hole in your life?

With fresh eyes

Whenever you read verses in the Bible about our Heavenly Father, I pray that you can see those verses with a fresh perspective.

Hebrews 12:9—“Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?”

1 John 3:1-2—“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”