

precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

"God Reveals Himself To Mankind In The Role Of A Father"

God reveals Himself to mankind in the role of a Father in several contexts. The most important is that of a spiritual Father. Thus, Christians experience a God Who expresses all the qualities of a loving Father.

He Gives Us Life (John 3:3) "Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

He Loves Us (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

He Rewards Our Efforts (Hebrews 11:6) "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

He Communicates With Us Through His Word (John 17:17) "Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth." (Ephesians 1:13) "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit..."

He Corrects Us Lovingly (Hebrews 12:3-11) "Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens everyone He accepts as His Son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His Holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

He Will Grant Us The Ultimate Gift Of Life —eternal life in His Kingdom through His grace (Roman 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."



What do you think of when you think of God? That is a pretty important question, and even more importantly is how you answer. Some may think of a loving, caring figure like a benevolent father. Others may think of someone who is far off and distant. Some may think of a heavenly

policeman who is just waiting for us to cross the line. Your view of God is so important because it will affect how you relate to Him. It will certainly impact your prayer life. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He taught them to say, "Our Father Who art in heaven." Jesus wants us to know His Father that He might become our Father. We speak often of Jesus' coming to give His life for our sin so we might be forgiven. He also came to reconcile us back into a right relationship with God. While on earth, He also revealed to us the face and character of God the Father.

"He Is The Sovereign Ruler Over The Entire Universe"



Jesus is called the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15) and He said that if you have seen Him you have seen the Father. Jesus wanted the Father to become real to us. He wanted us to have an accurate view of

what God is really like. He is not a passive bystander, a gentle old soul, or an aggressive law enforcer of the universe. There are a few predominant images of God throughout scripture. Each of them reveals something about the nature of God. Scripture reveals God as King. He is the sovereign ruler over the entire universe. He is creator of all, and it all belongs to Him. "For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16) God is also the judge of the universe. Every person shall have to give account of his or her life to Him. No act escapes the eye of God. Those images are true but they are incomplete. The main image of scripture is that of father — a Father Who is Holy and just, but completely loving and caring. Jesus' favorite term for God was Father.

"Jesus Introduced God As Father To Us"



In calling God by the name of Father, Jesus was trying to describe the nature of God. The people of Israel were not used to such an intimate term. They considered God to be so Holy that they would not even mention God's sacred name — Yahweh. They would not even write it down in its full form.

They considered it a lack of respect for

the Lord. His name was above all names and should be treated with great respect. In many ways, this is true. We are to honor God and His name above all. And yet this God was wanting to draw near and close to His people. He did not want them to see Him as distant, demanding and uncaring. This was a God Who was concerned for the welfare of His people. This Holy God was and is a God of love. Jesus came to reveal the heart of this God. Jesus called Him Father, and introduced Him to us as Father. He is Father God. I believe that is His favorite name for those who trust His Son Jesus Christ.

"Jesus: His Own Begotten Son"

Jesus Christ is the Son of God in a unique and special way. He is identified as the "Son of the Most High God" (Mark 5:7). Psalm 2:7 says, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." Jesus referred to God as His Father on numerous occasions. The very well-known John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Adam and Eve were created by God from the dust of the ground and given life by God, but they did not have a mother, nor were they conceived. Jesus Christ is the only Being that was born of a virgin by God's own Spirit overshadowing Mary, resulting in a conception (Luke 1:35). Jesus is literally the Only Begotten Son of God. All other humans have a physical father. So God is a Father to Jesus in a way that He is not to any other living being.

"Our Spiritual Father"

The Gospel message brought by Jesus Christ reveals another vital message about fatherhood and God's role in our lives. Though we all have physical life when we enter this world, God plans to offer all human beings the chance to experience an additional spiritual beginning that can result in eternal life in God's Kingdom. This aspect of the Gospel message reveals how, through

repentance, baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), God Almighty can actually become our Father in a very personal way. He becomes our Father, and we become His children, when we are spiritually converted. Romans 8:14 tells us, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:9, "You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you." Of course, we are still literally flesh, but Paul was speaking of this from God's perspective. We begin our spiritual life as babes (1 Peter 2:2) "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..." but we are to grow in Christian maturity until our death or until Christ. Through this new life based on God's Spirit living in us, we can begin to not only grasp spiritual truths and values; (1 Corinthians 2:9-11) However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard,

and what no human mind has conceived" —

the things God has prepared for those who love Him—
these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

but also have a very personal, close relationship with God our Father. Paul says that we are now able to address Him as "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

"Christians Are Able To Share In The Divine Nature Of God Himself"

"Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father!"



John 14:9

"Abba" is the transliteration of the Aramaic term for father, implying great familiarity and intimacy and a term expressing warm affection and filial confidence." God reveals through the New Testament that we can have a warm, affectionate, personal relationship with Him that goes far beyond just acknowledging Him as the One Who

beneficial rules to make our lives happy and complete. We are children in God's eyes and enjoy the special connection and love only a father and His children can enjoy. We are not just servants having a master, but sons and daughters having a Father. This brings us back to the first chapter of Genesis, where Moses records God's desire to "Make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (verse 26). Christians are able to share in the divine nature of God Himself! (2 Peter 1:4) "Through these He has given us His very great and