**FATHER’S DAY** 6/19/22

The most helpful way to visualize God, is to get a clear perception of Him as a Father. Isaiah called Him “Everlasting Father”, David called Him **“**A father to the fatherless,”, and Jesus more than any other way, addressed Him as “Abba Father”

**God as “Father”** In The Beginning…

**Gen 1:2** **“**Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

**Gen. 26-27** Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” **27**So God created mankind in his own image,
    in the image of God he created them;
    male and female he created them.

We see the “Father heart of God” in creating/“fathering” mankind

It’s as if He was longing to have a relationship with those whom he could Love …saying “Let’s have children! To care for and protect. To teach and watch grow…

To *love* and *be loved* by.”

In fact, the very first mention of the word LOVE in the Bible, was Father’s Love.

**Gen. 22:2a** **“**Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love…”

Father’s Day is a special day to celebrate Fatherhood.

* God the Father
* Our own Fathers
* Those who are Fathers

*Fatherhood is one of the most sacred and Godlike experiences someone can have.*

The most significant natural experience of my life was becoming a father.

*Aly and I were like many couples that yearned to have children but they didn’t come. We wanted so much to experience that level of love to give to little ones who were “made in our image”.*

*Through many years of waiting, and praying, and nothing happening…we were finally we were gifted with two beautiful twin girls on July 13, 2007. (10 years ago next month)*

*We went from being a couple with no kids to a family of four in an instant. Twins!*

*The evening of their birth I held them in my hands and experienced an amazing rush of love coming from deep within my being that I had never felt before. It was as if my capacity to give unconditional love changed from a trickle to a firehose of love rushing from deep within.*

*I would do anything for these two. Care for, provide for, protect, cherish, anything! I surprised myself…where was this coming from? They do nothing for me (except cry and mess up their diapers) they don’t say or do anything else, they barely smile and I’m not sure they even recognize me. Are these just the primal instincts of being a mammal that I am perpetuating or was there something more?*

*Why am I like this? What’s going on inside me?*

*Here’s why:…Because the Father is like this...I have His spirit in me.*

*I realize that deep in my DNA, I am emulating my creator. I was created in the image of God and this was His “mark of the maker” in me. I am a father, because HE is a father.*

1. **GOD THE FATHER**

Jesus most common description of God is “FATHER”

When Jesus taught us to pray he started with two words “*OUR FATHER*”

When HE prayed he often used the word: “Abba” – it’s what Jewish kids call their dad…you can too! The closest translation is “*Daddy”* .

*(who calls their Dad “daddy”? Daughters? Sons? Sons-in-law? : )*

"**Abba, Father."**

**Romans 8:15** **“**The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, *“Abba,* Father.”

**Isa. 63:16** “For You are our **Father**, though Abraham does not know us And Israel does not recognize us. You, O LORD, are **our Father**, “

**John 10:30** “I and the Father are one.”

### Jesus the Way to the Father

When Jesus claimed that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life, what was He the way to?– to the Father.

This takes place at the Last Supper, just after Jesus told them that he was going to be leaving them soon, and they were upset.

**JOHN 14:1-11** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2**My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4**You know the way to the place where I am going.”

**5**Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

 **6**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7**If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”**8**Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” **9**Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10**Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11**Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”

Jesus’ life gave us an accurate view of God.

 “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”

1. **BEING A FATHER**

Our families are our first priorities.

Requirement to be an Elder:

**1 Timothy 3:4** “He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him.”

We are required cultivate respect and obedience from our children through our parenting. We are to Teach them and Love them.

1. ***Teach them:***

**Eph 6:4 “**And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

**Proverbs 22:6**  “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

*Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. (NLT)*

Train up a child by building a thorough foundation of Godly wisdom and love which will serve them for the rest of their lives, EVEN if they stray temporarily from it between the time they are a child and the time they are older. *(Usually* teens and twenties)

1. **Love them:**

**1 John 3:1a** “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Fathers: it’s important to TELL and SHOW your children that you love them. It will affect them for the rest of their lives. Don’t assume that they know it because of the sacrifices you’ve made and how you provide. Tell them, Show them.

**Mark 1:11** “And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

We need to show and **TELL** and **SHOW** our children that we love them.

I start most days off by waiting for my children at the bottom of the stairs… **\o/**

**Proverbs 18:21** “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*

*(*This is especially true for fathers.)

1. **HONORING YOUR FATHER**

**EPH 6:2-3** ““Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— **3**“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

*From Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”*

*This is true for those whose fathers are still with them, but also those whose fathers have passed on. We need to honor them in words, actions and also thoughts.*

Noah's sons. (Shem and Japheth honored their dad, Ham did not.)

**Gen 9:20-27“**Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-226a)] to plant a vineyard. **21**When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. **22**Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. **23**But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father’s naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.**24**When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, **25**he said, “Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers.”

*(he cursed Ham’s household, and blessed the families of Shem and Japeth, not Ham)*

Closing:

**Ending Generational Sin, and Beginning Generational Blessing**

The sins of our father’s, their father’s or even us, do not have to reach our children. Jesus can change all that.

Closing story:

Two men were interviewed. One who was a raging alcoholic, the other would not even take a sip of alcohol.

They asked the alcoholic why he drinks so much, he said “Because my father was an alcoholic”.

They asked the other guy why he never even touches alcohol. He said “Because my father was an alcoholic”.

The past sins of the fathers can have a devastating effect on us today,

The Bible says: “…He lays the sins of the Fathers (parents) upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.”

***“children often suffer for the bad things their parents do****.”*

Our father’s failures can affect us, and effect our children for generations to come

…***unless*** we are willing to allow the Lord to heal us and cleanse us from those affects and help us to forgive the sins of the past and the influences of those sins on our lives.

Only Jesus’ blood can do that.

**The power of God can break generational sin, and replace it with generational blessing.**

, introduce the <DOMINO video>

His power can not only stop the cycle of generational sin, but transform it into generational blessing. We do not have to fall the way our fathers fell, we can actually cultivate blessing in the lives of our families instead.

By teaching them, showing them, demonstrating for them and loving them the way Jesus loves us, we have the power to offer them a foundation and heritage of faith that our parents may or may not have been able to offer us.

The weekly Hebrew prayer known as The Shema, is a holy declaration that God is *One*. It starts with *“Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad" (one). It then* continues with the command to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and strength, then it also includes a call to keep His commandments and to impress them upon our children.

**Deut. 6:4-7“**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6**These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7**Impress them on your children.”

**Let’s keep the Lord’s Word in our own hearts, but let’s also impress them upon our children.**