

Abba – Our Beloved Heavenly Father

- **Jesus used the word “Abba” which is another word meaning “Father.”** It is a more intimate and personal term, such as our word “Papa” or “Daddy” but denotes a relationship with deep respect as well.
Mark 14:36 - And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.
- **We are also invited to use the familiar endearment, “Abba, Father.”** Only one’s child uses names such as “Dad” or “Daddy.” This might be awkward, much as it might be awkward to call a new father in law you don’t know well, “Dad.” However, when the relationship is close and loving, the word has special meaning and is used with deep respect and affection very easily. This is the kind of relationship God wants to have with us.
Romans 8:15 - For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
Galatians 4:6 - And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
- **Jesus always called God “Father” when he prayed.**
Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.
John 17:11 - And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.
- **Jesus taught the disciples to call God “Father.”**
Matthew 6:9 - After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
- **Our God, Our Father**
John 20:17b - . . . I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.
- **That God enters into a father child relationship with us is an incredible wonder.** Such a permanent and close relationship entails taking on a father’s responsibilities for the nurture, care, discipline and guidance of his children. This demonstrates God’s commitment, love and tender affection for us. God could have saved us out of pity or love without making us His children. Yet He chose to beget us through the new birth of salvation and then nurture us from spiritual infancy to maturity where He enjoys a mature mutual bond of full affection and fellowship together with us. In maturity He will give us an inheritance in His Kingdom that is ours forever. Best of all, we will have the presence of our Father *and* the inheritance to enjoy, for Christ died and is alive forevermore. On earth, we receive an inheritance and enjoy it for a short time and do not have the

presence of a deceased father.

1 John 3:1 - *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

Galatians 4:4-5 - *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Ephesians 1:3-6 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

- **Our Heavenly Father is pleased when His children imitate Him and grow to be like Him.**

Luke 6:36 - *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

John 5:19 - *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

Luke 6:35 - *But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.*

- **Our Heavenly Father delights to provide for His children's needs.** He always provides for His children and has plenty of love, food and shelter at home waiting for them if they should leave His care.

Luke 12:30 - *For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*

Psalms 37:25 - *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

Proverbs 14:26 - *In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.*

- **God delights in exercising His Fatherly role to His children.**

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 - *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

- **Our Heavenly Father experiences many of the same joys and sorrows, delights and affections as we do with our children—yet to a far greater extent.** God delights to see His image in His children, much as we like to see our own image in the faces of our children and grandchildren.

Jeremiah 31:20 - *Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.*

Ephesians 5:1- *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*

- **Our Heavenly Father willingly sacrifices Himself to meet our need.** Many earthly fathers sinfully sacrifice their children to meet their own selfish desires, but our Heavenly Father is just the opposite—He freely gives of Himself for the benefit of His children.

Galatians 1:3-4 *Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.*

- **Our Heavenly Father delights in His children's company and fellowship.** Just as we delight in the loving fellowship of our children, so our Heavenly Father delights when we come into His presence.

John 4:23 - *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

1 John 1:3 - *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

- **Our Heavenly Father disciplines His children out of love.** God's discipline is NOT retribution—it is correction. It is NOT something done to His child, but for His child.

Hebrews 12:7 - *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

Hebrews 12:9 - *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

Proverbs 3:12 - *For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

- **Our Heavenly Father immediately forgives His children when they repent.**

1 John 2:1 - *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Psalms 103:10-14 - *He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

- **Our Heavenly Father comforts His children and is merciful toward them.**

2 Thessalonians 2:16 - *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our*

Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

- **More than anything, our Heavenly Father delights to see His children living in obedience and truth and hates to see them bring sorrow upon themselves.** We are much the same way with our earthly children.
2 John 1:4 - *I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.*
3 John 1:4 - *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
Deuteronomy 5:29 - *O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*
- **Our Heavenly Father delights to give to His children.** Like fathers on earth, He is able to give beyond what is needed when children are thankful and content.
Luke 11:11-13 - *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*
James 1:17 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*
- **Our Heavenly Father delights to have His children with Him**
Matthew 13:43 - *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*
Luke 22:29 - *And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
John 14:2-3 - *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- **Our Heavenly Father gives His children a place in the family business according to their gifts and abilities.** We are to be about our Father's business of winning and discipling people, just as Jesus was. When we arrive home in Heaven, we will be given a promotion or demotion according to our obedience here on earth.
Luke 2:49 - *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*
John 5:17 - *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

- **Our Heavenly Father delights to give His children an inheritance.**
 Luke 12:32 - *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
 1 Peter 1:3-5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- **Our Heavenly Father delights to honor His obedient child.**
 John 12:26 - *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*
 John 14:21 - *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*
 John 15:8 - *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*
 John 15:9 - *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*