

## **ALMIGHTY GOD IS ALSO A LOVING FATHER**

### **John 3:16**

**Introduction:** Why do many fathers flee their responsibilities to their families? Why are some girls and boys molested by their fathers and step-fathers? Why do some fathers kick their children out of their homes and into the streets?

There are many, many christians who have a problem thinking of God as a loving Father because their own earthly fathers treated them so wrongly. They have heard of God's love, but do not really understand "love" as they never experienced it while growing up.

It is not only christians mistreated as children by their fathers who have difficulty in allowing God the Father to express His special love to them. Why?

### **I. ONE DOES NOT REALLY BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF**

1. Troubles can cause one to forget what God has said about Himself and His love for all.
  - He is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in mercy, goodness, and truth.
  - He is at all times ready to forgive. (Psalm 86:5)
  - He is patient, full of tenderness and mercy. (Psalm 119:156; James 5:11)
  - He is slow to anger and wrath. (Psalm 108:3; 145:8)
  
2. One has to be careful of his/her image of God when going to Him in prayer.
  - The biggest lie of Satan is that "God wants to punish us more than to love us."
  - Job accused God of spying on him and saving up his sins for judgment.
    - Sadly, many christians feel the same way about God.
    - Actually God was complimenting Job as He does others as well.
  - Job lost his sense of God's love and tender mercies due to all his tragedies.
  - Many see God the same way - Sick and tired of all the failings and sins and is ready to "smack" them. That grieves God.
  
3. God the Father has a special love for all those who are in His family.
  - God loves everybody (John 3:16) but has a special love for His own Children.
  - God chose Israel to be His people.
  - God chooses believers in Jesus, His Son, to be His peculiar and special people, also.

### **II. IT IS HARD FOR MANY TO REST IN THE FACT THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST**

1. For the benefit of His children, God sometimes takes things away from them.
  - Parents do the same thing for their own children, for their safety, etc.
  
2. Like one's own children, God's children also cry, whine, have a fit, and blame God when things don't go as they want or they can't have what they want.
  - God never takes anything away that He does not give back something better.
  - One must learn to let God be his/her Father and trust His decisions for his/her life.
  - One needs to learn to rest in the loving hands of God, the Father, who has only his/her best interest in mind.

3. What will God do when I fail or sin? One asks. What do parents do to their children?
  - Will God get impatient or angry when one messes up? Will God back off?
  - Nothing a child of God does or does not do will ever change God's love or His plans for that child.
  - Consider God's dealings with the forever failing of the tribe of Ephraim:
    - God called Ephraim, His Son, delightful child.
    - Every time Ephraim failed God, God corrected them and they repented.
4. God has a plan for every single one of His children.
  - No matter what is happening this very moment in the life of a child of God, God is putting a lot of thought and planning into that child's future.
  - One cannot judge God's purpose by what is happening at a particular time. One must stand still and allow God to work out His plan for him/her.
5. There are two options to consider about God the Father and His Love:
  - Believe what God has said about Himself and His great love for His children.
  - Don't believe what God has said and be on one's own.

### **III. IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE THAT GOD THE FATHER IS REALLY LIKE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS**

1. It is God's desire for people to be convinced of His tender love that they will have continual joy and gladness in their daily walk with Him.
  - One can be glad and rejoice in what God has planned for him/her and not go around moping, griping, complaining all the time.
  - If one will trust God's love for him/her, then that person can be a living testimony to everyone else of that love.
  - Even when difficulties come, one can still have gladness and joy because of the great love that God the Father has for him/her.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. It will not be easy for some, but one must learn to trust the Heavenly Father, He is not like earthly fathers.
2. One must believe what God the Father has said about His love for His children.
3. One must be still and let God the Father guide and direct his/her ways every day.
4. Everyone has had a different kind of earthly father. Remember, God the Heavenly Father, is unlike any earthly father that ever lived, so let God be the kind of Father He is.