

September 2nd 2007: Father's Day: Ephesians 3:14-21

About a week ago.....catalogue.....T SHIRT→

Who are all these kids, and why are they calling me Daddy?

- Made me think about God
- How this is the absolute opposite of what God thinks

He looks upon humankind.....as His special creation
Upon the peoples of the world.....as FATHER of all....

AND He yearns for all to call Him Daddy

This was the message.....that Jesus proclaimed

What to a great extent had been previously hidden.....was now revealed

That God is the Archetypal Father.....He is the pattern....from which the idea of Fatherhood comes

He instigated the idea of Fatherhood

He is the Father in whom there is no sin.....no weakness.....no failing

And through His Son.....He makes a way for all.....to become His beloved children

- **There are many.....who dread the idea.....of Father's Day**

Because they never had a father who was nice.....who loved them

They mainly recall the abusiveness.....never should have been a father

Or the absence of one.....who never was

- **I have spoken to Christians.....find it so hard to see God as a loving Father.....**

Because they never knew love.....from an earthly father

They find it hard to trust God.....and always expect Him to be cross at them....let them down

BECAUSE THAT'S HOW IT WAS WITH THEIR NATURAL DAD

They look at their earthly father.....and then look at God as father.....with tarnished expectations

I believe that the message Jesus brought.....

Was that instead.....they should first see God as everything a perfect Father could ever be

with the added understanding.....that even the most wonderful earthly father

can never be more than an inferior copy.....of the Father that God is to those who receive

(Bali: Rolex watch...How silly to say---well after that rolex...I will never ever buy)

What Jesus came to share with us.....is that through faith in Him

We can enter into a relationship.....with the Father who is perfect....Full of love & mercy

The Father who alone is the real article

- **Jesus often referred to God as Father.....Over 200 times Gospels**

And often He spoke of God as the father of believers

To Mary.....just after His resurrection He said:

Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your father, to my God and your God.'

What the Father was to Jesus when.....Is what He is to us

The love, strength, encouragement, passion.....He gave to His SonHe gives to us

It was through His link with His Father.....By the power of the Spirit

That Jesus lived His life on this earth.....

.He calls us who believe.....To do the same

It was because of the Father's love.....that even on the cross.....Jesus could ask...to forgive....

And if today you carry a heavy burden.....left there by a parent...or.....who evilly treated you

Then you also.....because you are safe in the love.....can pass the burden to Him

Knowing He will always put you first.....

And will deal.....Justice/Mercy

- **For that is how the Father has dealt with us**

With Justice.....

He has seen our wrong doing.....and Has given His word of condemnation

But also with Mercy.....

.For He has taken upon Himself the punishment we deserved

And because sin is sin.....We can never look upon another.....

Say that they deserve forgiveness less

(*Cliff Barrows.....*)

God bore the punishment for our sins.....And now God the Father calls us to seek to live
In a way...that shows that we.....have got the point

Paul got the point

And in the book of Ephesians he seeks to pass it on to us

He got the point about God being the glorious pattern of fatherhood

In 3:14—15

*“When I think of the greatness of this great Plan I fall on my knees before God the Father (from Whom all
fatherhood, earthly or heavenly derives its name),.....”(Phillips version)*

- **But he especially got the point**.....about God the Father sending His Son

So that He could adopt us into His family

Where as His Sons/Daughters.....we could live our lives now.....depending upon Him as our Father

This is the great Plan.....

That as Christ lives in us by our Faith in Him

And as we come to know more and more of His great love

So we will be filled with the fullness of God.....

The image of the Father will be seen....in us

And He will do through us....His children....immeasurably more than.....

Impacting those around us.....with the certainty of our Father.....at work in us

(Story of Ben Hopper)

