

Honoring Our Father

“A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?”
Malachi 1:6

What a wonderful occasion Father’s Day is. It is a blessed and needful opportunity for children to show love and appreciation to the individual who has carried out the responsibilities of a father in their lives. Whether it’s your biological father or a father-figure, it is good to take time to let them know how grateful you are for the sacrifices they have made on your behalf. Being a father is often a thankless job. Therefore, I believe we should seize whatever moment we may have to tell them, “Thank you”.

While honoring our biological, surrogate or adopted fathers is good, may we never forget that there is a Father who sits high and looks low that deserves our appreciation as well. In Romans 8:14-16, the apostle Paul makes it profoundly clear that those of us who have been baptized into Christ and have the Spirit dwelling within us are, indeed, the children of God. When we look at these verses, we discover that when a person obeys the gospel they enter into a relationship with God that is so close that we can call him “daddy” (abba). You become His child and He becomes your heavenly Father. Therefore, if it is fitting for us to honor our earthly fathers, it is even more fitting that we honor our heavenly Father.

Take a moment to think about where you would be without God. What would you have? What could you do? The truth of Paul’s statement in Acts 17:28 is clear, “For in him we live, and move, and have our being...” We would have nothing, we could do nothing and we would be nothing without our heavenly Father. So, with as much as God has done for you, what have you done for your spiritual Father lately? How can and do you let God know how much you appreciate Him on Father’s Day and every day? I believe three words summarize how God’s children can honor their Father: love, worship and obey.

You should honor your heavenly Father by loving him with all your heart, mind soul and strength. This mean totally devoting yourself to Him and His will and putting your trust in Him. Secondly, you should worship Him. Whether it’s through prayer, praise, time in His word, or dedicating your time, talents and resources to His service, our heavenly Father deserves our sincere and reverential worship every day. Finally, you should obey Him. No parent feels appreciated by a disobedient child. Jesus made it very clear, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments”. God, our Father, commands, demands and expects His children to do what He tells us to do. Anything short of that is dishonorable or sin. Therefore, every child of God should do all that he or she can to be not only hearers of His word but doers also.

So, let us not be as the people who God was displeased with in Malachi, who failed to give Him the honor He deserves through their half-hearted love, worship and obedience. Show your heavenly Father how much you appreciate Him by giving Him your best. Life is God’s gift to us. What we do with our life is our gift to God.