

Galatians 4:1-7

FATHER, *AB*, *ABBA*, *PATER*

When Dad Babysits



When dad babysits



When dad babysits



When dad babysits



When dad babysits



When dad babysits



When dad babysits




When dad babysits



When Dad Babysits





Matthew 7:11: "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

Galatians 4:1-7

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Father in the New Testament


- Used only 15 times in the Old Testament for God, such as Deut. 32:6; Jer. 31:9; Hos. 11:1
- Gospels: Matthew 44 times; Mark 5 times; Luke 17 times; John 122 times.
- Paul used it over 40 times in his writings

Combination names of God the Father

- God the Father, 2 Tim 1:2
- God our Father, Eph 1:2, Matthew 6
- God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Ephesians 1:3, Matthew 6
- Father of Glory, Eph 1:17
- Father of mercies, 2 Cor. 1:3
- Father of spirits, Heb 12:9 (Num 16:22; 27:16)
- Father of lights, James 1:17




The meaning of the name:

- Emphasizes the act of creation
 - Emphasizes the act of redemption
 - Emphasizes love and compassion
 - Emphasizes relationship
 - Emphasizes intimacy
 - Emphasizes our responsibility
 - Emphasizes God's reliability
 - Emphasizes our future inheritance
- 



Meaning of the name:

“Father” means God calls us *sons* – not slaves, *heirs* – not hassles, and *family* – not foes.

- 
- Our Redemption
 - Our Intimacy
 - Our Responsibility

1. *Redemptive Relationship*

- Gal 4:5, “To redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”
- We are called into a relationship with God as our Father. Fatherhood is understood in terms of divine election and redemption.
- Salvation brings intimacy with God, Romans 8:15:

Father of all or only the elect?

General Fatherhood

- Created by God
- Made in His image
- General providential blessings to all
- Eph. 3:12-13: "the Father, from whom the whole family ... on earth derives its name."

Redemptive Fatherhood

- Our Past: Redeemed through Christ
- Our Present: Brought into His family
- Our Present: Intimacy
- Our Future: Inherit His kingdom

The Prodigal Son



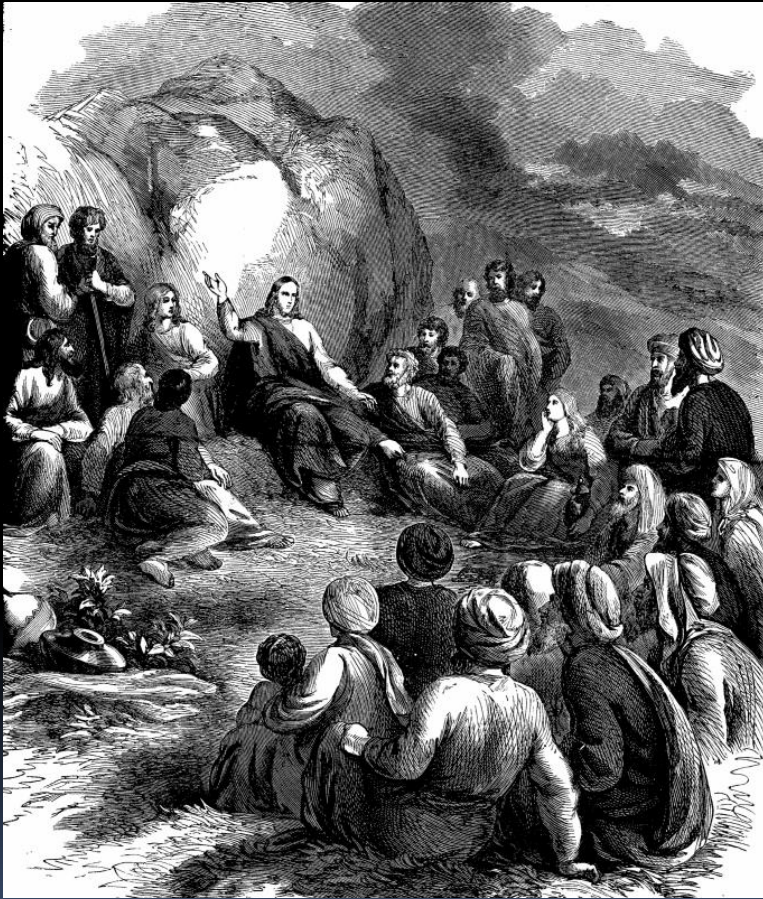
Luke 15:11-32

'For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

2. *Rewarding Relationship*

- Galatians 4:6: "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls our, *Abba, Father.*"
- He rewards unseen faithfulness
- He meets the secret needs of our hearts

Sermon on the Mount: the Father..



- Sees what is done in secret, and rewards
- Hears secret prayers
- Knows and meets secret needs
- Forgives secret sins
- “How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

3. *Responsible Relationship*

- Gal 4:7: “So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.” God is responsible to bless us.
- We reveal His character as His children: “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).
- We are to be peacemakers and a redemptive influence in society: “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matt 5:16).

Sistine Chapel Beautiful but Sad Legacy



- A distant God
- “Our Grandfather who art in heaven...”
- A distant Creator
- A mere touch, not an intimate breath

The Biblical Declaration

Genesis 2:7: "And the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being."

Galatians 4:6-7: "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls our, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, god has made you also an heir."





Agenda: Family Conference

- Staff Reports
 - Ordination of Barry Cole
 - Adjustment in mini-jobbers pay
 - Association with the Baptist Union
- 