

## **Ephesians- A New Way To Be Human Part 3: A New Father**

### **Fatherlessness Is A Massive Epidemic:**

#### **Fatherlessness Is An Epidemic W/ Christians Too**

##### **1. Starts By Seeing God Is Perfect Father W/ The Perfect Son**

###### **Perfect Father:**

James 1:17- "Every good gift & every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights w/ whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

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

Matthew 3:17- "A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, w/ whom I am well pleased."

##### **2. God Chose To Adopt Sons & Daughters:**

##### **3. God Wanted Us To Be His Children**

Ephesians 1:4b-6- "In love he predestined US for ADOPTION as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, w/ which he has blessed us in the Beloved"

##### **4. God Decided To Pick The Worst For Adoption**

Ephesians 2:1-3- "And you were dead in the trespasses & sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body & the mind, & were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

##### **5. We Reject His Fatherhood**

##### **6. If We Were God, We'd Send The Orphan Back**

##### **7. Shockingly, No. God Forgives Us & Treats Us Like Jesus**

Luke 15:11-12- "And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them."

Luke 15:3-16- "Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had & took

a journey into a far country, & there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, & he began to be in need. So he went & hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed w/ the pods that the pigs ate, & no one gave him anything.”

Luke 15:18-20- “I will arise and go to my father, & I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven & before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."” And he arose & came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him & felt compassion, & ran & embraced him & kissed him.”

Luke 15:22-24- “But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, & put it on him, & put a ring on his hand, & shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf & kill it, & let us eat & celebrate. For this my son was dead, & is alive again; he was lost, & is found.'” And they began to celebrate.”

1 John 3:1- “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that WE should be called children of God; & so we are...”

### **8. The Perfect Older Brother Is Dishonored**

Luke 15:25-32- “Now his older son was in the field, & as he came & drew near to the house, he heard music & dancing. And he called one of the servants & asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, & your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe & sound.’ But he was angry & refused to go in. His father came out & entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, & I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate w/ my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property w/ prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always w/ me, & all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate & be glad, for this your brother was dead, & is alive; he was lost, & is found.’”

Galatians 4:4-5- “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

Jesus was the Better Older Brother who wasn't angry that the prodigal kids were getting His inheritance- but wanted that!

VS. 6b- “...He has blessed us in the Beloved”

Who's the Beloved? Remember Matthew 3:17- Abba was what Jesus called His Father- “Beloved” is what the Son was called

The Beloved was forsaken so that the forsaken could be beloved

### **How Should We Respond?**

**Run To God As Your Father**

Romans 8:15- “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom WE cry, “Abba! Father!”

**Be Like Your Older Brother Jesus:**

Romans 8:29- “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

**Find God As Your Father Today:**

Psalms 68:5-6- “Father of the fatherless & protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.”