

I. Introduction

(Eph 3:16-19) ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, {18} may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, {19} and to **know** this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

II. The Fathers Pleasure

(1 John 3:1) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be **called** children of God! And that is what we are!

(Rom 8:14-16) {15} For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. {16} The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

(Zep 3:17) He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

(Psa 139:17-18) How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! {18} If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

God concepts

- a) God is never critical...He is always encouraging
- b) God is never condemning...He is always forgiving
- c) God is never cruel...He is always king
- d) God is never easily angered...He is always patient
- e) God is never rude...He is always considerate
- f) God is never demanding...He is easy to please
- g) God will never leave you...He always protects

III. The Fathers Pursuit

(Gen 3:8-10) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

(Psa 103:8-14) The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. {9} He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; {10} he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. {11} For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who

fear him; {12} as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. {13} As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; {14} for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

The Fathers desires...

1. To be known
2. Intimacy and inclusion with his creation
3. The Lost: All men to come unto salvation
4. Relationship and fellowship over reverence and religion
5. Worship: (he inhabits the praise of His people)
6. Holiness- because we become more like him
7. You over your ministry and your devotion time
8. He desires that you share & talk with Him, not just pray to Him
9. He desires that you laugh & cry with him
10. Love over performance: The real you over the performance you
11. To accept you even though you are unacceptable
12. To love you as he made you and not how you want to be
13. To prosper you
14. To see the treasure that he has created in you
15. That you use and enjoy using the gifts that he has given you.
16. To keep no records of wrong, but to forgive and forget
17. To destroy condemnation
18. To Love your brother as he has loved you
19. For you to find your self-worth in him
20. To see the best in you and never the worse

IV. The Protection of the Father

(Psa 91:9-14)

(Heb 1:14) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

(Deu 33:27) The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'

V. The Passion of the Father

(Luke 19:10) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

(Prov 24:11) Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.

VI. The Father as Provider

(Phil 4:19) And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

- God is a Father (Matt. 6:9). A true father is a protector, a healer and a provider who provides not only things necessary for life but also identity to his children.
- Being a good Father, He gives good gifts (Jas 1.17), especially to His children who come to Him in trust and ask Him. (Mt 7.11).
- The Father is our Healer (Ex. 15.26). We can come to Him knowing that He wants to heal our hearts, souls and bodies.

- The truth is that God is innately generous.
- The greatest demonstration of God's father heart seems to come with His attention to the details of our life. Creation shows an extravagance of color, complexity, and design

- He surprises us with those extra things, those little pleasures and treasures that only a father would know we yearn for

(Mat 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!