

THE
Fatherhood
OF GOD

THREE STUDIES BY GARY ALTHORP

Study

1

GOD'S FATHERHOOD IS CRUCIAL TO EVERYTHING

1. GOD IS COMPASSIONATE, CARING & GIVING – John 14

Rom.8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

1 Cor 8:6 ⁶ yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

1 Cor.2:9-11 *What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

Isa.64:4 *From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.*

Jer.29:11 ¹¹ *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare^[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jer.32:38-41 ³⁸ *And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.*

- **God gives Himself to us fully and we are not worthy - How much more should we give ourselves fully to Him who is worthy!**
- **The reason that God is so compassionate caring and giving to us who are not worthy, is because HE IS FATHER.**

2. JESUS CAME TO REVEAL THE FATHER

John 14:31 I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

John 14:28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

John 14:24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

John 12:49-50 I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

John 13:1,3¹ Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father...³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,

John 14:6-13⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

- **The Bible clearly teaches that God is Father. He is not like a Father as though He were one in many. He is the one true Father from which every other father is but a mere shadow and poor reflection of what true Fatherhood essentially is.**
- Jesus made certain claims about the Father and more specifically His relationship to Him, and of course this affects us. Jesus said He came forth from the Father and that His life revealed the Father.
- ***"The Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself."*** John 5:26
- ***"And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,"*** John 5:37
- ***"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him"*** John 6:44
- ***"The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands."*** John 3:35
- Jesus declared throughout his life and ministry that He was about His Father's work...
- ***"My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."*** John 5:17
- ***"I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me."*** John 8:28
- ***"The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me."*** John 10:25

- ***"I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."*** John 16:28
- He declared ***"I and the Father are one."*** John 10:30
- ***"I am not alone, for the Father is always with me."*** John 8:29

Jesus made it very clear that He came to restore us back into relationship (sonship) with the Father. It is our intention throughout these studies to pursue the full implications of this Sonship. In order to do this we must first see the Father.

3. GOD IS FATHER

a. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN FATHER

John chapter one says ***"In the beginning was the Word."*** This is better translated ***"When the beginning began, the Word who always was, was already there."***

- **There has never been a time that the Son has not been the Son.**
- **Jesus prayed prior to His betrayal *"Father, glorify thou me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world began."***
- This clearly points to the fact that in the, 'before time began', **Jesus always was the Son.**
- He referred to His Father being and sharing their glory together before time began.
- We must conclude from this that there never was a time when the Father was not Father.
- He did not become Father at the incarnation.
- This means that if you could take God's Fatherhood away from Him, He would no longer be God.

b. GOD'S FATHERHOOD IS CENTRAL TO EVERYTHING

- ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of his will."*** Eph. 1:3-5
- God's intention ever before creation was that men and women should be his sons and daughters, children of the Heavenly Father. This does not mean that every human being is or will be a child of God.
- It is true that every human being owes their existence to God's creation being descendent of Adam who was created personally by God.
- Adam was created perfect until he wanted to be "as God" and through his act of rebellion and consequent fall from relationship and intimacy with the Father, he no longer reflected the true image of God.
- He was lost and needed a redeemer.
- Consequently the whole of mankind, created in His image (though it is a distorted image), are alienated from that for which they were created.

- They were created for personal, intimate love relationship with their creator Father.
- Not being **in** this personal and intimate love relationship they have an insatiable vacuum within their whole being that seeks to be filled.

The Father blank!

4. FATHERHOOD - A MARRED IMAGE

"The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." John 10:10 (L.B.)

"Anyone hating me is also hating my Father....they saw these miracles and yet they hated both of us - me and my Father." John 16:23-24 (L.B.)

- The question has often been asked "**Why did God let it happen?**"
- People who ask this question are often wounded, abused, hurt, embittered, used etc. and when trying to minister the restoring love of God to them, they all too often retort with the statement that they have given up on God. What they should be saying is that they have given up on man for it is not God who has violated them but man.
- I have counselled many young people the world over who are victims of paternal default. God always intended for fathers to reflect his image to their children.
- Little children look at their dads and see God, they grow up relating God's Fatherhood to what they have experienced life to be like with their own fathers.
- As a consequence they reject any hint of life with a heavenly Father because they have seen fatherhood as a marred image.
- **As a result:-** Last year 3027 people killed themselves.¹ "At any time, one in four women and one in six men are suffering from depressive illness...One in ten Australians will spend time in a psychiatric hospital at some time of their life."² "In Australia, it's estimated that 45 per cent of people will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime. In any one year, around 1 million Australian adults have depression, and over 2 million have anxiety."³

John Smith in his book *Advance Australia Where?*, says

"..we project onto God much of the tragedy of our own family life. Most kids view God according to Dad."⁴

The sad truth of the matter is that all of the prostitutes that lived with us in the House of Magdalene in Los Angeles hated men because they had all been victims of incest - violated by men who were supposed to be representing God's character as father.

¹ Article in The Australian Sept 28 2016

² Article by Carolyn Jones, featuring Professor Graham Burrows, "Growing tragedy of young suicide", THE SUN PICTORIAL, SUN LIVING (January 28, 1986).

³ Beyond Blue statistics from Australian Bureau of Statistics

⁴ John Smith, ADVANCE AUSTRALIA WHERE? (Homebush West: Anzea Publishers, 1988) p.113

Study

2

MAN'S SONSHIP

Rom.8:18-23 ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies

1 John 3:1-3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

- The mystery of God through the ages is unveiled in the "manifestation" (showing forth) of the sons of God.
- **Geoffrey Bingham explains** "From the beginning of man's creation, until the climax of the end-time, God is expressing His Fatherhood, by making men and women His sons....none of this takes place apart from His own Son, and the Holy Spirit who is called 'the Spirit of His Son' and 'the Spirit of your Father'". "We should not be deluded by the simplicity of the matter, into thinking that there is no great significance in sonship and God's Fatherhood. It is certainly no over-statement to say that it is the very be-all and end-all of the universe; that it is the very purpose of Creation itself. Without sonship man is not man, as without Fatherhood, God is not God. Nothing is more important than that man should come into full sonship of the eternal fatherhood. Then his humanity will become true and realised. Then he will truly live".⁵
- It is quite clear from Scripture that man was created in the image of God but lost sonship through his rebellion and fall.

⁵ Geoffrey Bingham, *I Love the Father* (New Creation: Blackwood S.A.) p.7

- Adam was created the son of God, but through his rebellion and sin, sonship was lost. "We would sometimes think that Adam was bewildered by the fact that he had sinned, as though it happened, almost without his knowing. Whilst we admit to the treacherous 'deceit of sin' yet Paul says firmly, 'Adam was not deceived' meaning Adam knew what he was about. He wanted to be as God, and probably saw no great evil in this, but only a high aspiration. Yet he had deliberately disobeyed God. Hence one theologian's comment, 'God does not find us as straying sheep, but as rebels with weapons in our hands'".⁶
- Through the fall man-the-son becomes man-the-non-son.
- Because of lost sonship man is awry in all things - distorted - perverted - out of focus - disharmonious.
- Man's predicament, his rebellion etc. is all due to lost sonship.
- The picture of lost sonship is graphically portrayed in the parable of the lost son. Luke 15:11-32

1. THE TRUE SONSHIP OF THE SON

- To be a child of God is to be born of the Spirit which is what Jesus told Nicodemus.
- Gal.4:29 tells us that Isaac was born of the Spirit. He was the true son of Abraham.
- In Gal.3:7 Paul tells us that men of faith are sons of Abraham.
- The comparison is Ishmael who was born of the flesh but not of the Spirit.
- It is only those who are born of the Spirit who are true sons of God. **Gal.3:26** "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith"
- Since the fall there has been no natural sonship apart from THE FATHER and THE SON. All sonship since the fall has been by grace through faith only through THE SON.

JESUS THE SON

Matthew uses the words of the prophet Hosea (11:1) by declaring "Out of Egypt did I call My son" (Mtt.2:15). The nation of Israel was also called out of Egypt but failed to fulfil its destiny as a son. Jesus, born of the tribe of Israel is taken by the command of the Lord back into Egypt from whence He would fulfil all that the nation had failed to fulfil. In order to understand the why of this we need to look at the pre-incarnate Son.

2. THE PRE-INCARNATE SON

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that **they** also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that **they** may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me **before the foundation of the world.**"

Eph 1:3-6 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind

⁶ Geoffrey Bingham, *I Love the Father* (New Creation: Blackwood S.A.) p.10

intention of His will,⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

1 Peter 1:20 For He was foreknown **before the foundation of the world**, but has appeared in **these** last times for **the sake of you**²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Geoffrey Bingham says that "when we come to study the True Son we should do so on our knees. This is when the intellect should beg to be a servant, and not an over-lord of the personality. Ideas, even theological ideas, may detach us from the realities they purport to communicate to us. Our spirits should be awed when we understand that the One who became flesh, was in fact the Creator of all flesh.

There are passages of the New Testament which use this world's languages, but they tell of a realm which our minds, of themselves cannot grasp, let alone contain, and retain. The marvel is not that the Son of that Realm is the full Son in this realm of man, but that He could so lay aside His greatness, as to become man, one of His own created beings. Perhaps we will understand, one day, that His greatness is that He can be so humble."⁷

"No wonder Jesus prayed in the hours before His betrayal, 'Father, glorify thou me with the glory which I had with thee, before the world began.' An ancient glory, which if man were to see it, he would be consumed by its very wonder. This was the Son! 'Rich he was,' says Paul, 'but for our sakes he became poor that we might become rich through him.' The mystery deepens" says Geoffrey Bingham, "the wonder grows, the adoration enlarges. Wonderful Son of the Father!"⁸

The great declaration from heaven at His baptism in the River Jordan declares the eternal Son by the eternal Father **"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON**, in whom I am well pleased" **Mtt.3:17**

- **Ps.2:7** "THOU ART MY SON, today I have begotten Thee".
- **Ps.89:26-27** "He will cry to Me, 'Thou art My Father, My God, and the rock of My salvation, I also shall make Him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."
- **Rev.1:5** "Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and ruler of the kings of the earth."

These great declarations are out of relationship but are primarily **action** and **function**, as is our sonship. **All sonship is relationship in action. It is sonship functioning.**

3. JESUS SAID IN JOHN'S GOSPEL:

- "My Father loves Me because I lay down My life for the sheep";
- "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hands";
- That the world may know that I love the Father, as the Father has given Me commandment, so I do";
- "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work";

⁷ Ibid. p.15

⁸ Ibid. p.16

- "I seek not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me";
- "I have not come down from heaven to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me";
- "The works which the Father has granted Me to accomplish, these very works which I am doing bear Me witness that the Father has sent Me";
- "I and the Father are one".

4. THE REVELATION OF THE FATHER BY THE SON

"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.", **John 1:18**. "The Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him **John 1:12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Gal. 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Eph. 2:18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

5. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S WILL IS THAT WE SHOULD BE SONS

Eph. 1:3-6 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- This is accomplished only through **The Son**.
- Therefore the key to God's plan and its fulfilment is the Son, Jesus Christ.

Eph. 3:14-16 ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Rom. 8:14 "All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

6. WORKING SONS - FUNCTIONAL - ACTIONAL - IN THE FATHER

John 14:7-31 ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. (To know Jesus is to know the Father) From now on you do know him and have seen him."⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? (Jesus is God, creator of everything, part of the Triune God, Father,

Son & Spirit) *The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (Jesus only spoke Father's words & did Father's works) ¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it (All the Father's family do the works of Jesus & thus the works of Father) . ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. (The Holy Spirit reveals the Son and the Father) ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (To be loved and known by Jesus is to be loved and known by Father) ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.*

Acts 4:29-31 ²⁹ *And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

- The Son is working out the victory of His Cross and Resurrection through His brethren

7. TO KNOW GOD AS FATHER MAKES US DIFFERENT KINDS OF FATHERS

- The Biblical concept of father was vastly different to ours today. The parable of the Prodigal shows us that the father was always to be a provider, benefactor and sustainer

to his sons. The sin of the prodigal was not that he pursued riotous living, but that he broke relationship, the relationship of dependence to his father. His riotous living issued from this act.

- Today, because we do not have this concept in our modern 21st century cultures, we clutch at an emotional concept of fatherhood. The fatherhood of Biblical Days reflects nothing of today's fatherhood.
- Out of the security of father's house, a young man had access to all of the wisdom and care from his father without the imposing of fatherhood. In other words a man when he married would leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife, but this was not the living of separate lifestyles. The son would continue in his father's business, living under his own roof, yet submitted to his father and dependent upon his father's advice, provision and in this, his protection.
- It was an obligation that was the keeping of the commandment to honour your mother and father. It had little to do with emotion, but everything to do with commitment.
- The son's attitude to his father was one of honour and respect which is the true foundation for affection.

8. THE MEANING OF ABBA

We first hear this phrase not on the lips of rejoicing saints but on the lips of Jesus in the great anguish of the Garden of Gethsemane.

Mark 14:35-36 ³⁵ *And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

Psl.89:26 *He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'*

- It is here that we see the true meaning of sonship and fatherhood.
- Here in the agony of doing Father's will, of drinking the cup of immeasurable suffering shows the special and unique relationship of Jesus and His Father.
- **Fatherhood imposes the obligation of obedience - Sonship accepts.** **Phil.2:8** *being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Thomas Smail in his book ***The Forgotten Father*** says:

The Son's surrender is not an enforced surrender; it is a willing surrender to the One whom he has known from eternity as the bountiful provider, reliable in His promises, and utterly faithful in His love. "He can obey the will that sends Him to the cross, with hope and expectation because it is the will of Abba whose love has been so proved that it can now be trusted so fully by being obeyed so completely."⁹

⁹ Thomas Smail ***The Forgotten Father*** (Hodder: London 1980) p.39

"When in the Spirit we dare to cry Abba! after Jesus, the one on whom we call is the God of Gethsemane who can ask anything including ourselves because he has given everything including himself"¹⁰

"We also need to be wary of the suggestion often made by preachers of the more tear jerking variety that the correct translation of Abba is Daddy. Professor C.F.D.Moule puts it right here, 'Addressing his heavenly father with exceptional intimacy, Jesus does not, however, take advantage of this familiarity. He uses the Abba address to offer God his complete obedience. The intimate word conveys not a casual sort of familiarity but the deepest, most trustful reverence'. In other words Abba is the intimate word of a family circle where that obedient reverence was at the heart of the relationship, whereas Daddy is the familiar word of a family circle from which all thoughts of reverence and obedience have largely disappeared...the best English translation for Abba is simply Dear Father."¹¹

Rom.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!"**

Gal.4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, **"Abba! Father!"**

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Study

3

THE HOLY CHILDREN OF THE HOLY FATHER

We need to be warned against love that is merely sentimental, and action that is inspired by this. **God's love is holy.** God is holy and all of His actions are holy, therefore His children must be holy, they must exercise holy love.

1. THE HOLY FATHER & HIS CHILDREN

1 Peter 1:14-17 ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

2 Cor.6:14 - 7:1 ¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? [Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

^{7:1}Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- Here Paul quotes Isaiah 52:11 & Hosea 1:10

Eph.5:1-14 Be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place,

but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

1 Cor.6:9-11 ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

In 1 Peter 2:9-10 ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 John 3:1-3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 Thess.3:13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Heb.12:6-10 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

2. GOD IS HOLY BY HIS ACTIONS

Psalm 77:13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?

Psalm 98:1-3 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ² The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness

3. THE CHILDREN ARE HOLY BY THEIR ACTIONS

Rom.12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship

Eph.1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Eph 5:27 that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Col.1:18-22 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

1 Peter 1:13-21 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

2 Peter 3:8-13 ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Jude 1:17-25 ¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.