

# Imago Dei: God our Father for a Fatherless World – John 14:1-7

*Imago Dei and the Battle for Humanity - #9*

**Introduction** – To be created in the image of God is to be created with a need to know and be known by God our Father. In a world caught in the grip of a profound Father Hunger there is a disorienting and deep-seated suspicion of turning to “God our Father” as presented in the Word. We might call people to Jesus, we might emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit, but who emphasizes the need to know the Father? But the Word speaks of the Father and there we find the character and gospel of God to clarify, heal, and draw us into our relationship with God and with His children. And then we have a Gospel to declare to a fatherless world.

**Jesus is the Way to the Father** (John 14:1-7) – After washing the disciples’ feet, declaring a traitor in their midst, announcing His coming departure, and prophesying Peter’s denial (John 13), Jesus turns to comfort the disciples. They believe in God and so they should believe on Jesus (John 14:1). Jesus is going to prepare a place for them where there are many dwelling places which the Father has (vv2-4). Jesus knows we want to dwell with our Father. Thomas is confused and asks for the way (v5). Jesus says He is the Way, the Truth and the Life (v6). His point is that He is the way, the only way, to the Father. For now on, if you know Jesus, you know the Father (v7). Philip responds with a great desire to see the Father (v8) and Jesus again states that if you have seen Him, you have seen the Father (v9). Later He also says that if we love Him, we will keep His Word, and He and the Father come and make a dwelling place in us (v23).

**The Father’s Home, our Home** – Consider this dwelling place which is our home with God the Father. He has adopted us as His children (Eph 1:5). Jesus is the Way to the Father. The Spirit dwells in us so that we cry out “*Abba, Father*” (Gal 4:6). He loves us as He loves His only begotten Son (John 17:23). This is how the Triune God operates – “for through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father” (Eph 2:18). The Son is the way (the road), the Spirit enables (the engine), and the Father is the destination (our home).

**The Name for All Families** (Eph 3:14-15) – Beginning this powerful prayer, Paul calls upon the “*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.*” In other words, the origin of all family life and therefore of all human relationship is the Father.

**Our Father in Heaven** – The name “*father*” carries with it enormous power and so there is often much pain when considering the faults of one’s earthly father. What a child normally assumes their father should be like corresponds to the characteristics of our heavenly Father.

**He is Most Ancient** (Dan 7:9) – How impossible is it for your kids to think you were once a baby?

**He is Perfect** (Matt 5:48) – The child believes his dad can do no wrong.

**He is Wise** (1 Tim 1:17) – Children ask dad about everything and expect answers.

**He is Loving** (1 John 4:16) – And the perfect Father pours out this love upon His own (Zeph 3:17).

**He is Rich** (Psalm 50:10, Eph 3:8) – He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and delights in giving.

**He Never Dies** (1 Tim 6:16) – We do not naturally expect our father to die.

**Implications of God Being “our Father”** – His character is consistent with what His Word declares He will do for His children.

**He will teach us** – Isaiah 48:17

**He is full of affection towards us** – Isaiah 43:4, Eph 3:19, 1 Pet 5:7

**He is full of sympathy towards us** – Psalm 103:13, Isaiah 63:9, Zech 2:8

**He will correct us, leading us towards holiness** – Heb 12:5-6

**He will protect us from the evil one** – the Lord’s Prayer, and 1 Cor 10:13

**He will pour out His grace** – Heb 4:16

**He sends His angels as ministers for us** – Heb 1:14

**He will not withhold any good thing from us** – Psalm 34:10, Rom 8:32

**He makes us heirs to all His promises** – Heb 6:17

**Good News to a Fatherless World** – “*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation*” (Psalm 68:5). It is too late for politics, legislation and the State to save us. But it always has been too late. Politics is no savior. Legislation will not save our country. The current epidemic of sexual activism and the demand to murder our children is the result of disobedient fathers, and I am afraid that Christian fathers along with the church are just as much to blame. God our Father must grant us the gifts of repentance, reformation, revival and reconciliation. And for individual fathers: Here is your invitation to know the Father. Only then can we embrace the high calling of fatherhood. It is not too late for God. He always takes us from where we are, not from where we should have been. There is no reason that you cannot be first in a long line of faithful fathers.