

6 September 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Fatherly Love

Psalm 103: the whole psalm is a favourite, but focus on verses 13-17 and read them reflectively. Today is Father's Day.

A Christian is a person who has God as his Father. Not everyone warms to that idea because their human father has been indifferent, abusive or absent. Don't transfer the failings of earthly fathers onto God! He sets the pattern for fatherhood, and with Him, closeness, affection, care and generosity are at the heart of the relationship.

Have you realised from this psalm:

- the tenderness of God's compassion for His children (v. 13)? God really feels for us – like the father of the prodigal son (Luke 15:20).
- the intimacy of God's understanding (v. 14-16)? He knows what we are really like: our frail humanity, often childishly immature and lacking wisdom, yet still loves us.
- the faithfulness of God's love (v. 17)? From "everlasting to everlasting" – His love never fails.

To be a child of God is not a natural ability but a gift of God's grace: chosen, adopted, cherished. The measure of His love is the Cross of Jesus. By faith in Jesus (the great Son of God) we can become God's children, adopted by grace (John 1:12; Galatians 4:4, 5). God's adopted children are loved no less than Jesus, the beloved Son (John 17:23) – this is love lavished on us!

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God." 1 John 3:1

He has adopted us, always accessible to us, made us His heirs for eternity, and given us His Spirit to reproduce His character in us. No wonder the richest answer to the question "What is a Christian?" is: A Christian is one who has God as his Father.

Prayer

Lord, I praise you for making Yourself my Father by faith in Jesus Your beloved son. Help me to live in the security of Your fatherly love. Transform my prayer life through a deeper grasp of my relationship with You. As a member of Your family may my life increasingly reflect the family likeness. Amen.

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another. If any of you would like Holy Communion in your home, call and let me know: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert