

FATHERHOOD

In the beginning... God became a Father...



In the beginning...

God created...

A man in His own image...

That man was called “Adam, the *son* of God.”

And thus began the first father/son relationship...

It was just Adam, the son, and His Father, the Creator.

Since that day, it has gone on and on...

Fathers and sons, sons and fathers...



Father to Son / Son to Father A relationship

The Almighty, YHWH, is called *Father*. Why? Adam is called the “son” of God. Our Master Yahshua is called the “son of God.” Why?

When the Creator decided to create something very special, in His own image, He chose to make a “choice-making man.” He called him “son.” Adam had a relationship with his Creator like that of a son with his father. But what is that relationship? We have all heard the terms “son of God” or “our Father” in the “Lord’s Prayer,” often without really considering what these terms signify.

Father-to-son signifies a very special type of relationship. It is a delicate, unbroken strand of intimate interaction. It is a channel. It is a pathway for the wisdom of life that will enable the next generation to prevail through the storms of life. It is the highway upon which advice will travel that will enable the son to exceed what his father accomplished. It is the perfect plan of the Creator to make an exceptionally wonderful creature that would always *increase*, always become greater and wiser. Having that relationship with a father as the trusted advisor, the one in whom the son continually trusts, will be the solution to all the son’s troubles in life. The son will become an even greater man than the father, an even greater ruler than the father.

The Fall

The fall of Adam was not just the sad story of a creature that must suffer discipline for disobedience. It was actually a dramatic break in a very deep plan by the Creator who had created a relationship with His creature. This relationship was self-perpetuating, repeating itself through the generations. It was a very significant, a well-thought-out relationship that would be the only lifeline this creature had to sustain him. Once the relationship of trust was broken between father and son, the whole plan of YHWH was frustrated.

YHWH has intended for this creature, man, to be in a totally dependent relationship with his “father” until the heart of his father was totally formed in the son. He would in turn have this same relationship with his own son. The heart of Adam would go into his son, thus continuing the cycle of “father to son” throughout all time.

Normally a man should be able to win the heart of his son, as he is created in the image of his father. But when the evil one entered in and broke this relationship, man was doomed to only spiral downward. Rather than progressing in building upon the wisdom of their fathers in an unbroken line, they were divided from their source and began to bring shame. It was not meant to be this way.

The cycle of father to son was written about in Ecclesiasticus 30:4 — *Even when the father dies, he might well not be dead, since he leaves his likeness behind him.*

The father is living in his son, and more so as the son has increased slightly in his own wisdom, building upon that of his father.

Since each man must have a “father” in order to come into existence, the ability to pass through this channel the heart and wisdom of the father would always be there. There is no son that does not have a father. He could never possibly have been conceived without the sperm of a father. This is a

sure way to assure that no creature called “man” would ever exist without a “source,” a father. The “type” would always be present before the eyes of every human. The father may die or disappear from the life of the baby, and the channel will be vacated, leaving the little orphan creature without any hope of making it unless someone steps in to fill that place in his life.

Fathering... THE WAY OF INCREASE

It is for this reason that YHWH chose the one called the “Father of the Faith” in both Jewish and Christian religions — Abraham. When the Almighty saw in that man a very wonderful heart and the ability to command his household, to be a father, He chose him to be the father of a whole nation who would represent their forefather. Abraham was re-linked to God by his faith and linked to his own son in a true father-son relationship. Thus the channel He had originally planned for man was again able to function. Our Father carefully put upon Abraham the clear mandate to re-establish that essential relationship that was intended in the beginning. He said, *“I have chosen Abraham, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the YHWH, to do righteousness and justice, that the YHWH may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”* Nothing could ever happen on earth, no restoration, until this link was fixed. This is the VERY REASON He chose Abraham. This is the “way of YHWH,” the way of INCREASE.

YHWH was the perfect example for us to know what a real father should be like. He walked with His son Adam in the garden that He had given him. All Adam needed to do was to take on his father’s heart and gain wisdom. But when he leaned on his own understanding and made his own decision and disobeyed his father, the son broke something that has been so very hard to repair. The separation Adam experienced from his father when he disobeyed him is called “sin.”

On the Father's side...

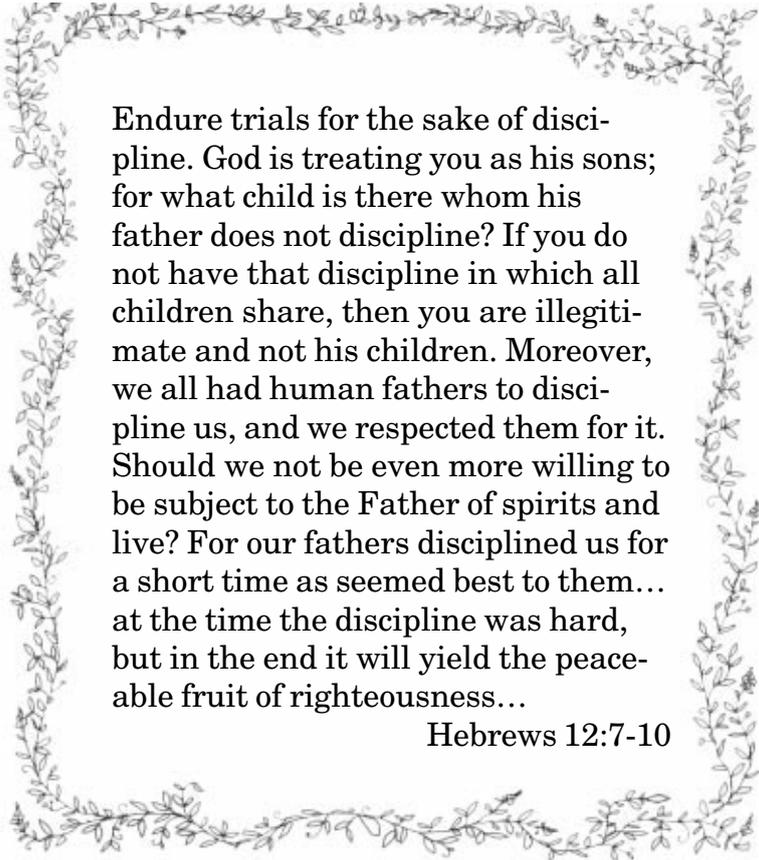
On the father's side there has never been one man, not even the most fallen and corrupt, who does not have a deep desire to communicate with his son, passing on to him all the wisdom he has learned from his own mistakes. The father always looks down at that little baby in his arms and hopes that he will become a better man than he was. The father tries to teach the son how to make the right choices so as to not suffer like he did. But sadly, at a certain point in his life, the son decides to exercise his independence, and the cycle of downward spiral continues. The same scenario has been repeated over and over through history since then. The son gets to a place in his life where he suddenly feels he knows more than his father and decides to embark on his own path... breaking the channel of father and son.

When great men have surfaced from time to time in our human history, very rarely have their sons followed in their path or surpassed them. On the contrary, usually the son lacks the greatness of his father, even despises his father's way, and opts for a totally different course in his life.

But Abraham's son, Isaac, actually did take on his father's heart and follow his path. Abraham was greatly exalted, for he was able to win his son. This pleased YHWH very much, for He realized He had found a man who could command his household. With this ruling line, He wanted eventually to fill the universe with creatures who have the ability to spiral upward, with fathers passing on to their sons all the important things they would need to surpass them in their life. Thus mankind would continue to grow and increase into the full image of the Father of us all who created them. But sadly, even Abraham's descendants did not fulfill this calling. Soon, even this special line lost the ability to win their sons to the same faith as their forefather Abraham. It seems that this mechanism that God saw in Abraham has almost

become extinct in the human machine today. Children are allowed almost total independence, never receiving the discipline that would train them to be men and women of virtue and integrity.

But a true father is clearly defined in the scriptures. From the example of God himself, we can see how He intended men to father their children.



Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as his sons; for what child is there whom his father does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. Moreover, we all had human fathers to discipline us, and we respected them for it. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For our fathers disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them... at the time the discipline was hard, but in the end it will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness...

Hebrews 12:7-10

Dear Father,

The scriptures reaffirm the eternal truth of what I want to express to you today....

You are my father whom I respect. For you raised me as it seemed best to you...

It was not an easy task to raise me, but ultimately you will see the fruit....