

# People of the Spirit - Part 1

## Teaching on the Trinity - God The Father's Gift

09.12.2021 // Rock of Grace Kinsman Campus

### Intro

I'm not sure how you grew up and what your father was like but mine was pretty great.

Expound on dad

Good memories and a few funny things

- My dad, Mark Biel, had a ROUGH dad growing up. Carl Biel wasn't the affectionate type or the affirming type. He struggled like most men in expression much emotion unless that emotion was an anger outburst or an appreciation for hard work. He had the boys - my dad Mark and his brothers - out at 5am milking cows and cleaning stalls.
- My dad passed down that value of hard work to me and for that I am VERY thankful. I never had to milk cows - THANK GOD - but I did have to work hard and 'earn my keep' My dad ensured I had a good job and worked with enthusiasm. If you worked slow you weren't working. I've met a few young guys that could use a dad like Mark Biel.
- My dad taught me many amazing things - how to always honor people and give them dignity - even if they were making bad decisions. He taught me to be generous - he was always giving the car away to be borrowed and beat up - for people brand new to the church! I'd ask "why?" He'd say "It's not our car. It's God's car." So ...
- My dad taught me about stewardship - that everything is God's and God deserves all glory for He supplies all good things.
- My dad taught me the Word of God and for these things I am SO thankful
- My dad taught me about the Holy Spirit and always encouraged me, grabbing my shoulders many mornings and looking me in the eyes and he'd say "You're a world changer, son! I believe in you!" Most days I'd look away - acting as if it didn't mean much but deep down like all teenagers, it meant a lot to me. Do you know at the age of 38, it still means a lot to me when he says "Great message, son."
- I'm VERY blessed because I have TWO great dads. My father in law, Bob Berry is amazing. He helps so often with jobs around the house, a few rental properties I did a few years ago. He helps watch the kids. He's a lot of fun and yeah I'm just REALLY blessed with my own parents and Bob and JoAnn.

Research shows that the majority - yes the majority of people say that they have some sort of Father Wound.

This is why whenever the concept of a dad and son - in particular a failing dad in movies always resonates with the audience. The majority of them can relate.

What does this tell us? Two things

- 1. We are intrinsically in need of a perfect Father**
- 2. We can only find the perfect father in Father God**

We all long for a father - a father who affirms us, protects us & provides for us.

We find this illustrated clearly, early on in the Word of God. In Gen 27, Jacob and Esau are both desperate for their father's blessing - Jacob wanting it even more than his brother Esau.

This wasn't just about inheritance in the sense of money either - Jacob wanted BLESSED.

We all do.

Again, we ALL, every human on the planet with breath in their lungs longs for the affection and affirmation of a father.

They want to hear the words "I'm proud of you. And... I'm here for you, whatever you need."

I want to share so much with you today on this idea of God being your Father. I LOVE this topic. I could preach 4 messages - a month on this alone! But I'll share with you a few things that I feel are most important in the sense of you relating to God as His child. And I when I was praying about this message I asked the Lord Thursday afternoon "What do you want to teach us about you being our Father?" I felt like I heard His reply loud and clear ... "Teach them what I've taught you the last 12 years." For 12 years I suppose God has been teaching me about fatherhood. This relationship that God gives ALL of us - whether it's broken or whole - is a picture leading us to Father God, our Creator.

*Personal Story of me and the girls or Lukas*

**God loves each of us equally and unconditionally but we're all so different.**

*Personal Story of me and the girls or Lukas*

**1 John 4:8 Anyone who does not love God does not know God for God is love.**

To say this means so many things.

1st that God is unwavering and unchanging. He is eternal.

Humans can stop loving someone. They do it all the time. Humans can lose their sense of affection or even if we say that commitment to sacrificial love - we do it all the time.

Not God.

God is never going to change. God is never going to stop being loving. God will never give up on you even if you give up on Him.

When you question this during a difficult season or situation, you and I often might ask "How can God be loving if this is going on? How can THIS show God's love?"

Yet in those moments we must remember that God demonstrated His love by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins - to suffer in our place.

It's God's great love that enables us to be forgiven and given access into His holy presence. If we choose to live by faith we choose to receive from God - receiving the truth that HE KNOWS best and HE KNEW what we'd suffer and yet HE KNOWS what to do and how to strengthen us.

This is after all the very essence of faith - receiving.

I love what John Piper said in his most recent book called THINK.

Faith isn't faith without receiving.

If we are working or placing our hope in our understanding than it is no longer faith.

Faith is believing that God is God and God is good even when we don't get what we want - when we're given something other than what we asked for.

**Mt 7:7-11**

**<sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a**

serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

**In each season of life, God knows what we actually need so sometimes He doesn't give us what we pray for.**

*Personal Story - My Girls the last two weeks have asked me for a sucker every morning since the Cortland Fair*

Here's my girls and Lukas

**Pictures of all 4 and Lukas**

Each of them are different yet I know what they need and sometimes when they ask me for things, like a sucker, I do NOT give them what they request.

Am I making my point clear yet?

Some of you in your prayer life, are asking God for suckers and He's trying to give you carrots and teach you what's good for you LONG TERM but you're not yet listening. Lol

What I so desperately want each every person at Rock of Grace to come to is a place of satisfaction in God. Where what we want and what we pray for isn't as important to us as our companionship with Father God - our friendship with Jesus Christ.

**Our Father in Heaven provides for us something the world can never provide - genuine, unconditional love - a love that can only come from Him.**

**"Being must prevail over meaninglessness and death!" - Plato**

Plato was talking about the need for humans to feel and know love and in love be satisfied with simply being instead of doing or needing something - even a prayer to be answered, a request to be filled, a goal to be achieved. **Plato found what Augustine found that our only satisfaction can truly come from God, our Father, our CREATOR, the ONE who MADE us for such friendship!**

Pascal calls this "the reasons of the heart."

When we keep searching for God until we find Him.

Like that moment in Luke 24 when Jesus shows up and explains scriptures to them and they it says "Suddenly their eyes were opened ..." and they understood who Jesus was - in the midst of Him breaking bread - having a meal with them - fellowship, friendship.

I find it awesome that this is when many of Jesus followers had this "epiphany" moment - over a meal NOT in a church.

Jesus, reveals the Father's love and it's personal. Just like an earthly father, who is a good father, wouldn't say "I'll see you in a week" Father God wants to spend every evening with you, eating a meal together - at your place. He actually wants to spend every day with you.

Did you know that God not only loves you but He likes you.

Many people can believe that God loves them - after all, if He IS love, He kinda has to love us right? But in a weird sense, they wonder if God actually likes them.

Yes, God not only loves you but likes you. He made you with all your quirks, abilities, weaknesses and talents. Your sense of humor, your hair, your lack of hair lol whatever you are, He likes you and wants to be your friend.

Yes, He is Lord and Judge and we'll stand before Him and give an account one day.

But none of that changes who He is as YOUR FATHER!

Jesus referred to God as ONE THING more than any other - FATHER.

When the disciples noticed Jesus was

## **God loves each of us equally and unconditionally, adopted into His family**

God has taught us so much about his love through foster care.

People tend to think that there's no way you could love a foster child or adopted child as much as your own - but that's simply not true.

We love Lukas just as much as our own little girls. Yes the love is different. But it is the mysteriously also the same.

It's a STRONG love that would cause us to do anything to protect him.

## **God has snot on his shoulder. 1 Peter 5:7 Cast your cares on Him for He cares for you.**

God cares so deeply for you and when you're sad, when you're down, He's holding you and letting you cry on his shoulder and wipe your snot on it too!

## **Parenting teaches us SO much about the way Father God sees us.**

God our Father lets us make some mistakes because He knows sometimes we just have to learn the hard way. He knows we learn more through experience than through a lesson.

God our Father listens to us and lets us vent to Him - have you ever read Psalms!? David is just venting half the time - nearly yelling at God - in all it's honesty and brokenness and yet God loved this transparency so much that He included it in His HOLY Scripture! WOW

That means God our Father wants us to learn how to express our needs and emotions to Him. Shepherding a Child's Heart, author Tedd Tripp says ...

The finest art of communication is not learning how to express your thoughts. It is learning how to draw out the thoughts of another." God draws out our thoughts as we pray, as we read His word, as we wait in His presence.

**God teaches us that we can trust HIM to supply all we need.** Jesus came to earth to communicate and illustrate who the Father is. We'll read a few portions today from Mt 5 and Mt 6. I'd like you to turn there with me please.

This is one of my favorite passages in the entire Bible.

So many people - even Christians- get caught in a web of fear and worry and it's paralyzing and debilitating.

You and I, we are PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT and people of the Spirit have been given the Spirit of God which is a spirit of LOVE and a sound mind, NOT a spirit of fear!

Look at this promise Jesus gives us - a promise from His Father - from our Father!

**Mt 6:25-34 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap**

nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

<sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?  
<sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

In today's world, the crisis and the decisions regarding your health, regarding authority, regarding society and culture are constantly changing.

The decisions are only getting harder and harder.

**BUT in this changing culture, you can KNOW what never changes! That is the LOVE of FATHER GOD and the truth that HE will guide you into making the right choices.** When you seek Him, He will hear you and guide you and you WILL hear Him. You may not hear His audible voice. But you ARE hearing him. When you take time to pray. Trust me, He hears you and He gives you peace and guidance.

One of the things I do with Lukas and the girls is I just hold their hand and walk down the street in our neighborhood. I just hold their hand and walk. I'm guiding them. Loving them. Telling them I'm THERE.

That's what God is doing for you each and every day.

Sometimes he knows you just need to go for a walk together.

**God loves** each of us equally and unconditionally, but we're all so different.

*Personal Story of me and the girls or Lukas*

God disciplines us differently because He knows what is best for us to grow into the person He wants us to become. He disciplines us differently because He knows what our potential is.

He disciplines us differently because He loves us 1 John says.

In that same book I mentioned earlier that I was re-reading this week "Shepherding a Child's heart" the author says "All behavior is linked to attitudes of the heart. Therefore, discipline must address attitudes of the heart."

This is why often explanation is needed when we are disciplining our children.

I have to admit, sometimes I don't do that. Sometimes I just correct them and have to move on! Lol

BUT God through His Holy Spirit, explains to us why we needed disciplined.

But God through His church a pastor or mentor or friend, can walk us through what feels like "discipline"

I have a couple guys right now - that I'm walking through some painful things. Separated from their wife and feeling like God is "disciplining" them yet what I keep reminding them is that God is making them a disciple and teaching them how to love and serve their wife the way Jesus does.

### Heb 12:5-15

have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."<sup>7</sup> 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?

<sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> 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? <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

God loves each of equally and unconditionally but we're all so different.

Lukas, our foster son, needs things my girls don't need.

For one, he gets up at 6am. They don't get up till 7am.

That has drastically changed my quiet time with the Lord in the morning the last 2 years!

I either have my devotion with him on my lap - barely lol

OR I say forget it and just do my Bible reading at church.

His needs are DIFFERENT than my daughters needs.

**Did you know that GOD, your Heavenly Father, knows your unique needs?**

You know, just yesterday one of my children was having a hard day. She got into trouble with me about 5 to 7 times. So what am I going to do as a dad?  
I'm going to re=

He is...

Holy, **creator**, powerful, present, provider, good, patient, love, unchanging, father  
Lord of justice and compassion

We will take just an opening look at God the Father - because we can never know all there is to know about who God is. How exciting!

## God our Father is first and foremost our Creator.

Isa 40:28 CSB

Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,<sup>b</sup>  
the Creator of the whole earth.  
He never becomes faint or weary;  
there is no limit to his understanding

### We were created for God - God is our Father

Isa 43:21 CSB

The people I formed for myself will declare my praise.  
Our seeking after Him is also an act of worship!  
When we take time to simply ENJOY GOD, He enjoys us.  
We enjoy each others company. We enjoy time together. This is SO important that you receive this. It's something that has to be learned experientially not by hearing it in a sermon. I only pray that by hearing it in a sermon that you are inspired to seek after Him - to take time with your Father and learn how great it is to know Him and to love Him for to know Him is to love Him.

As God our Father - he knows and freely gives us good gifts.

Always keep in mind that my definition of good may be tainted, my understanding of what I need may be skewed, but God knows, and God sees what we need, and the gifts that he is giving to us.

Sometimes these gifts are things we don't often think of as gifts. For example:

2 Tim 1:7 CSB -

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.

Sound judgment also means that God has given us the ability to make these decisions for ourselves, to practice self control in our lives and our decision making.

Matt 6:26 CSB

We see in the words of Jesus:

Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?

**YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN THE BIRDS OF THE SKY - YOU ARE WORTH SO MUCH TO GOD.**

**YOU HAVE WORTH**

God has declared a covenant of providence over you and I - that is we are under the CARE OF GOD

Covenant of providence -

Noah sermon

***Thorn, Joe, Experiencing the Trinity, p. 34***

***"He will provide, but you can miss his provision if you're waiting for him to give only what you are looking for."***

Don't let your understanding, your inner desires prevent you from receiving the provision that God has for you today, tomorrow, for the rest of your days.

**God creates us and supplies what we need all because of His love.**

Why? Why does God do these things? Why did he create us, provide for us, sustain us?

BECAUSE God our Father is good!

Ps 25:8-9 CSB

The Lord is good and upright; therefore he shows sinners the way. He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

HE SHOWS SINNERS THE WAY

LEADS THE HUMBLE & TEACHES THEM

Story. When I show my daughters how to ride a bike, I'm teaching them "the way" from getting from A to B using a new method.

God in similar fashion, teaches us how to move from one season to the next, how to get from A to B. \*I don't mean how to "improve our lives as if life is a big TED TALK and God is on the main state for 18 minutes teaching you tips and tricks. I'm saying God is FATHER who teaches you how to advance through pain and difficulty - how to advance and mature - maturing in the sense of your emotional intelligence, ability to love and forgive.

Part of that goodness is another identifier of God - his patience!

When we see how patient God has been with us, we become much more patient with others in their faults. I think the greatest compliment you and I can ever receive is that we're acting Christ-like in a trying situation. Last fall I received probably the most meaningful compliment I've ever received from Will. When he said "I've never seen anyone turn the other cheek like you have in this situation." I remember telling him "well that's what Christ calls us to do. Even if someone throws us under the bus and lies about us or slanders our good name, it's our job only to love them. It's not our job to hit back. Jesus made that pretty clear."

Did you notice that so many of these understandings of God are also part of the fruit of the spirit which God calls us to bear?

SEE! We are to be like God in such a way that the fruit we bear in our spirit, as people of the spirit, is a direct reflection of who God is!

God our Father is patient! **We are PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT and as people of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit of God, we begin to display the fruit of the Spirit or can I say it like this - the attributes of Father God. Patient, loving, compassionate, gracious, truthful, guiding, encouraging, loving, faithful...**

Jesus died on the cross - bearing your sins -

God doesn't ignore your sins. Some ministers will convey that but that's not the truth. He address them but he is waiting for you to come to him - he does not inflict punishment the moment you sin - he is giving you the chance to find redemption through Him. **Woman caught in adultery** - both hands of grace and judgment. Your accusers are gone. They don't accuse you and neither do I. But go and sin no more. \*Walk and live now in the love of God that compels you towards righteous living - a life that doesn't inflict pain and hurt on others or yourself.

**Ps 86:15 CSB**

**But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth.**

Have any of you burned in hell for eternity for your sins?

No! That's evidence of this!

This also does not give us the right to be patient in getting ourselves right with God.

His patience is further evidence of His love!

Don't you find yourself more patient with a person you love than a person you perhaps...tolerate?

But his love is more than just a love for us, it is who He is.

1 John 4:16 CSB. And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

And just like patience is present when love is present, so is forgiveness.

God our Father is forgiving. He loves even those who oppose Him and reject Him. He loves those who even slander Him and berate Him. He loves His enemies and teaches us to do the same.

### **Love Your Enemies**

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as **your heavenly Father** is perfect.

In this same sermon only about a minute later, Jesus comes back to the topic of forgiveness and says ... **Mt 6:14-15**

**<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses**

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 6:14–15). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- Psalm 103:1-5 CSB
  - My soul, bless the Lord, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. My soul, bless the Lord, and do not forget all his benefits. He forgives all your iniquity; he heals all your diseases. He redeems your life from the Pit; he crowns you with faithful love and compassion. He satisfies you with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- While we are only just scratching the surface of who God is - we see...we know so much yet know so little - but what we can understand is:
  - God created you
  - God loves you
  - God has patience for you
  - God has mercy and grace in abundance for you
  - God forgives you.

- AND THIS WILL NEVER CHANGE
  - Who God is never changes
    - Malachi 3:6 CSB
      - “Because I, the Lord, have not changed, you descendants of Jacob have not been destroyed.
    - As followers of Christ, while we may not be by blood as a descendant of Jacob, we become part of this same line:
      - Ephesians 3:6 CSB
        - The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
    - And the other evidence here is that GOD NEVER CHANGES - who He is holding true through not only all of scripture but also all of time.
  - In being part of this lineage, adopted into His kingdom, as God being OUR FATHER, we know that we can call ourselves, a CHILD OF GOD.
- **You are a child of God when you accept Jesus His Son as your brother and Lord and Savior**
  - Rom 8:14-15 CSB
    - For all those led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!”
- God wants us to understand the wholeness of God. We walk in knowing that he is God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit - three-in-one - separate but one - a fullness of understanding we cannot comprehend.

There’s an element of faith here that can’t be ignored. We can not FULLY UNDERSTAND the concept of the trinity. God, three in one, really? How!? That is where FAITH comes in. I love what Piper said in his new book “Think” If we can fully understand it then it isn’t faith. If we can achieve it, it isn’t faith. Faith is accepting and receiving something from someone stronger and smarter than you - receiving a GIFT from GOD.

He goes on later in the chapter to say “Salvation starts with God AND ENDS with God. God’s Spirit calls out to us sending and invitation to become His children. We respond and in faith say “yes to Him, repent of our sins and wickedness”. We receive His love and then we give glory to God - to GOD - not to ourselves as if we earned anything. This is why salvation begins with and ends with God.”

John the Baptist came in the Spirit of Elijah to return the hearts of the fathers back to the children and the children back to the Fathers. THAT is what is happening in the world before Jesus comes again a second time!

This revival looks different. It doesn’t look like worship services with guest speakers for 3 hours 5 days a week. I think we’re seeing a revival right now - it just looks different. This revival looks like Christians getting Father God’s heart. This revival in America look slike Christian solving the orphan crisis all around them.

5 days of worship services where people are healed and running to the altar to repent - that may happen but it may not. It may just be Father God’s relentless, sincere love compelling every heart of every Christ follower to start serving the poor, the widow and the orphan.

- Salvation Prayer - be called a Child of God
- Prayer for Receiving the Father’s Gift of AMAZING LOVE
- Prayer for Understanding & Receiving the Fathers Heart for LOST PEOPLE