

NEW LIFE TEACHING

FATHER

I hardly know where to begin. I am assailed by thoughts on every side. I have a father who produced the seed which gave me human, physical life. This father went on to establish a home for me, my mother, my brother, and my sister. From him I learned many things. Some of these things were very good, some were routine, and some were not good at all. Yet, he was the only 'image' of father available to me. He was 'imprinted' on my DNA.

At a certain point in my life I understood enough about Jesus and God's plans that I chose Him to be my Lord and I was 'born again'. This is a curious term, born again, and is still dismissed by many, perhaps most, as mere colorful dialogue. Who brought this term to us? It was Jesus, the one who also first taught about God as Father. The term born again is not just picturesque speech. Jesus used the term because it gets to the heart of what Father God has offered to each of us. He offers to become our new, true Father. He is Spirit. He, somehow, I do not know how, inseminates our spirit with His own spiritual DNA and we are born into a new family, the family of God.

That dim picture of father given to us by our earthly father is now overshadowed by our new Father and a major internal struggle begins within us. Is our new Dad 'like' our old? No! No matter how good or how bad your earthly father, your new one is vastly different. I fear many Christians NEVER come to grips with this. Most, after some struggle, paint their new Father with multiple, meaningless adjectives, put Him on a shelf to be taken down and worshipped on special occasions.

This just wont do! The true God, the true Father will not stay on any shelf you can make. He is very jealous of the affections of His true child. He desires – no – He demands intimacy with His child. You see, Father God is a very real PERSON! He is not an icon, He is not a philosophy, not a theology, not a Church, nor a doctrine. He is a real, living, person. He is Spirit, it is true. I am glad because this allows Him to be fully with you and fully with me at the same time. I do not understand that at all (I have tried hard) but I do believe it.

Since Father is a person, it makes sense that He has a personality. He does and He gives un direct insight into the nature of His personality. I have

written about this at length in a previous study, “The Personality of God” (www.rcnewlife.org) but a quick hint comes from Gal. 5:22-23, ‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, mercy, ---’. This is His nature, the nature of your NEW Father. Most people I know view Him as a God judgment and wrath (even many Christians). Jesus did not picture Him this way! Jesus called Him ‘Abba’ (Daddy). You have a new Daddy now. He is not only all wise and all powerful. He is also love, joy, PATIENCE AND you are His little child, precious to Him.

NOTE FROM DICK PENDLETON:

I believe everything I have written here is absolutely consistent with scripture. I encourage you to ponder and pray until your internal guide, the Holy Spirit, opens your spiritual eyes and inspires you to a new, and better, view of your new Father (Abba).

Written by Dick Pendleton under the auspices of NEW LIFE INC. , a non-profit organization. You may review other writings on our web page at: rcnewlife.org There will be no request for donations.