

## OUR FATHER'S WISDOM AND LOVE

### I. Proverbs 3:1-12

A. Proverbs is among the books of the Bible referred to as "*Wisdom Literature*." Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, some of the Psalms, the book of Job, and even the NT book of James are considered part of this wisdom collection. I first discovered Proverbs during my senior year in high school and I love them just as much as ever...

B. King Solomon, David's son, is the primary author of Proverbs. He's thought to be the wisest man who ever lived, though he didn't always walk in the wisdom God conferred upon him. 1 Kings 4:29-34 (ESV) tells us where the wisdom came from: **29** *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. 33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. 34 And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.*

C. As for all of Solomon's Proverbs, only a portion of them made the Canon of Scripture. As for our text today, it's among those attributed to Solomon. Perhaps he wrote it to a son. Or perhaps to all his sons. Or better yet, to all his sons and daughters. But because this is *Father's Day*, might I suggest we receive these words from our Father Above. For most certainly they come from His heart to all His children everywhere and I pray you're among His adopted brood. Let's hear from Him now.

D. Proverbs 3:1-12 (ESV) are twelve exceptional verses, steeped in wisdom...

1) **V1-2:** *1 My son, (My daughter; my child) do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. (While obedience may certainly cost you, by and large the benefits of obedience far out weigh the alternative consequences.)*

2) **V3-4:** *3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. (From the giving of the Law in Exodus, straight through the Psalms and Prophets, even through the whole of Scripture, the constant attribute of God we see written and demonstrated is His Steadfast Love & Faithfulness. His steadfast love and faithfulness are "from of old" it says in Psalm 25:6. They "endure forever" according to Psalm 136 and many other verses. Here we're told to brandish the same; to wear them like a necklace, to let them be inscribed on the tablets of our hearts. Like Father, like, sons! Like Father, like daughters!)*

3) **V5-6:** *5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. (implicit in these two verses is the sovereignty of God. Nothing is beyond His absolute knowledge, power, presence, and control. The late R.C. Sproul put it this way: "If there is*

one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled." **Do you ever lack knowledge and understanding? Yes indeed! Does God ever lack them? NO! NEVER! Might it be wise for us to lean on Him?! Is He not trust-worthy?!**)

**4) V7-8: 7** *Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8* *It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. (Some people can learn by wise instruction. Some refuse to learn that way. It starts as children: 'Don't touch that hot stove, it'll scorch you badly!' One child heeds the instruction and doesn't get burned. Another child has to see if the wise instruction is truly wise. He's the one who goes screaming through the house, squalling all the way to the ER...)*

**5) V9-10: 9** *Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10* *then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (One thing you'll notice is that many Proverbs are agricultural in nature. Farming was the cultural norm for thousands of years. Many of Jesus' parables were also agrarian stories. But you needn't be a farmer to apply the meaning of God's Word to your every day lives. We can all honor God with whatever our hands produce. Here the notion is that God is honored most when we give from the first of what we produce vs our leftovers. It also speaks of reciprocity. Scripture elsewhere refers to tithing--giving a tenth of our income. Now there's tithing and there's tipping and they differ from one another. Tipping is what we do for those who serve us well at Bob Evans or Our Lakeside Diner. Tithing is giving off the top. Giving to God is always a heart endeavor that demonstrates in *Whom* we've placed our trust. **2 Cor. 9:7** is Paul's prudent counsel on giving: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.")*

**6) V11-12: 1** *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of His reproof, 12* *for the LORD reproveth him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (The sooner we realize that God disciplines we His children the better. And His discipline is done in love. As the author of Hebrews puts it in (Heb. 12:10b-11 NIV) "But God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.") (Story of getting spanked when I was a kid...)*

**E.** It's important for us to embrace our Scripture today as being from heavenly Father. It's Father's Day after all. "*Father*" is God's preferred name. Many here through the years have found Father's Day to be tough. Not everyone had good dads. Some had fathers who were abusive, negligent, AWOL, deadbeat, and worst of all, unfaithful to their moms. For others, this day's tough because their dads have already passed on. Other than maybe looking through a photo album or telling a few old pop-stories, having quality time with dad just can't happen... But our heavenly Father is ever present. His steadfast love and faithfulness aren't going anywhere. These aren't just randomly disseminated, they are aimed and launched directly at you! And just how much does He love us? (John 3:16) Everlasting life where? With God our Father who adopted us!

**F. Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT) puts it this way: 3** *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4* *Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. 5* *God decided in advance to adopt us into His*

own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. **6** So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son. **7** He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. **8** He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

**G. 1 John 3:1-2 (AMP) adds an exclamation mark: 1** See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would be permitted to be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, we are even here and now children of God, and it is not yet made clear what we will be after His coming. We know that when He comes and is revealed, we will as His children be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is in all His glory. **(Thanks to God our Father, we're no longer spiritual orphans! Glory to His name!)**

\* Close with Prayer...

## [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

### [Proverbs 3:1-12 \(ESV\)](#)

**1** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, **2** for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. **3** Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. **7** Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. **8** It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. **9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; **10** then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. **11** My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of His reproof, **12** for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

### [1 Kings 4:29-34 \(ESV\)](#)

**29** And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, **30** so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. **31** For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. **32** He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. **33** He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. **34** And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

### [Quote by R.C. Sproul](#)

"If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled."

### **Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT)**

**3** All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. **4** Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. **5** God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. **6** So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son. **7** He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. **8** He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

### **1 John 3:1-2 (AMP)**

**1** See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, we are [even here and] now children of God, and it is not yet made clear what we will be [after His coming]. We know that when He comes and is revealed, we will [as His children] be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is [in all His glory].

### **Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment**

**The Privilege of Addressing God as "Father" - R.C. Sproul**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMoVsQzDclg>

**He is Better Than Our Best Dads - John Piper**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf\\_Slwc8kSE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf_Slwc8kSE)

**What Does it Mean to Call God Our Father? - John Piper**  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-does-it-mean-to-call-god-our-father>

**"Dad" - Tyler Wood**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSh6rINnW14>

**"Seeing My Father in Me" - Paul Overstreet**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVRpRkletY0>

**"My Dad" By Paul Petersen - The Donna Reed Show:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-vYuV3OmhE&feature=related>

### **1 Kings 3:5-15 (ESV)**

**5** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” **6** And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward You. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. **7** And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. **8** And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. **9** Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?” **10** It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. **11** And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, **12** behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. **13** I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. **14** And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” **15** And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

#### **Proverbs 4:1-27 (NLT)**

**4** My children, listen when your father corrects you. Pay attention and learn good judgment, **2** for I am giving you good guidance. Don't turn away from my instructions. **3** For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved as my mother's only child. **4** My father taught me, “Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live. **5** Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. **6** Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. **7** Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment. **8** If you prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will honor you. **9** She will place a lovely wreath on your head; she will present you with a beautiful crown.” **10** My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life. **11** I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths. **12** When you walk, you won't be held back; when you run, you won't stumble. **13** Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life. **14** Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers. **15** Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving. **16** For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble. **17** They eat the food of wickedness and drink the wine of violence! **18** The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. **19** But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over. **20** My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. **21** Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, **22** for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole

body. **23** Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **24** Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. **25** Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. **26** Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. **27** Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

#### **Exodus 34:4-8 (ESV)**

**4** So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. **5** The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. **6** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." **8** And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

#### **Deuteronomy 7:9 (ESV)**

**9** Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God Who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations...

#### **Psalms 25:6-7 (ESV)**

**6** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. **7** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

#### **Psalms 25:10 (ESV)**

**10** All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

#### **Psalms 36:5-10 (ESV)**

**5** Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds. **6** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD. **7** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. **8** They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights. **9** For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. **10** Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!

#### **Psalms 40:10 (ESV)**

**10** I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness from the great congregation.

#### **Psalms 57:9-11 (ESV)**

**9** I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. **10** For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds. **11** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!

#### **Psalm 86:15-16 (ESV)**

**15** But you, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. **16** Turn to me and be gracious to me; give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant.

#### **Psalm 89:1-2 (ESV)**

**1** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations. **2** For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness."

#### **Psalm 89:24 (ESV)**

**24** My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with him, and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

#### **Psalm 103:8-14 (ESV)**

**8** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **9** He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. **10** He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. **13** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. **14** For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

#### **Psalm 108:4 (ESV)**

**4** For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

#### **Psalm 117:1-2 (ESV)**

**1** Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! **2** For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

#### **Psalm 136:1-9 (ESV)**

**1** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. **2** Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever. **3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever; **4** to Him who alone does great wonders, for His steadfast love endures forever; **5** to Him who by understanding made the heavens, for His steadfast love endures forever; **6** to Him who spread out the earth above the waters, for His steadfast love endures forever; **7** to Him who made the great lights, for His steadfast love endures forever; **8** the sun to rule over the day, for His steadfast love endures forever; **9** the moon and stars to rule over the night, for His steadfast love endures forever...

### **Jonah 4:1-4 (ESV)**

**1** But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. **2** And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. **3** Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” **4** And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

### **Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)**

**22** The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; **23** they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

### **Joel 2:12-13 (ESV)**

**12** “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; **13** and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.

### **Isaiah 64:6-8 (ESV)**

**6** We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. **7** There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. **8** But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our Potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

### **Hebrews 12:1-11 (NIV)**

**1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **4** In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5** And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, **6** because the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and he chastens everyone He accepts as His son.” **7** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? **8** If you are not disciplined--and everyone undergoes discipline--then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. **9** Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! **10** They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. **11** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

### **Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)**

**4** But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **5** God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children. **6** And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” **7** Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are His child, God has made you His heir.

### **Romans 8:12-17 (NLT)**

**12** Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. **13** For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. **15** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, Father.” **16** For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. **17** And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.

### **1 John 4:7-12 (ESV)**

**7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

### **John 5:19-30 (ESV)**

**19** So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel. **21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will. **22** For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, **23** that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. **25** “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself. **27** And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the

resurrection of judgment. **30** "I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

### **John 17:9-13 (ESV)**

**9** I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. **10** All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. **12** While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

### **Quote by Martin Luther**

"'Abba' is only a little word, and yet contains everything. It is not the mouth but the heart's affection which speaks like this. Even if I am oppressed with anguish and terror on every side, and seem to be forsaken and utterly cast away from your presence, yet am I Your child, and You are my Father. For Christ's sake: I am loved because of the Beloved. So this little word, "Abba," Father, deeply felt in the heart, surpasses all the eloquence of Demosthenes, Cicero, and the most eloquent speakers that ever lived. This matter is not expressed with words, but with groanings, and these groanings cannot be uttered with any words of eloquence, for no tongue can express them."

### **Quote by Sinclair Ferguson**

"Unless God is our Father, we are orphans. But God's own Son has become our Older Brother. He comes through His Spirit, with His Father, to live with us. The Holy Spirit dwells in our lives, making us a suitable dwelling place to receive the Father and the Son! As a consequence, by the Spirit we learn that we are not abandoned and unloved, but rather that we are loved by the Father, by the Son, and lovingly cared for by the Holy Spirit (John 14:21)."

### **Quote by Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

"As Christian people we must learn to appropriate by faith the fact that God is our Father. Christ taught us to pray "Our Father." This eternal everlasting God has become our Father and the moment we realize that, everything tends to change. He is our Father and He is always caring for us, He loves us with an everlasting love, He so loved us that He sent His only begotten Son into the world and to the Cross to die for our sins. That is our relationship to God and the moment we realize it, it transforms everything."

### **Quote by J.I. Packer**

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything

that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God the Father."

**Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"When I regarded God as a tyrant, I thought my sin a trifle, but when I knew Him to be my Father, then I mourned that I could ever have kicked against Him."

**Quote by Hudson Taylor**

"I am taking my children with me, and I notice that it is not difficult for me to remember that the little ones need breakfast in the morning, dinner at midday, and something before they go to bed at night. Indeed I could not forget it. And I find it impossible to suppose that our heavenly Father is less tender or mindful than I... I do not believe that our heavenly Father will ever forget His children. I am a very poor father, but it is not my habit to forget my children. God is a very, very good Father. It is not His habit to forget His children."

**Quote by Billy Graham**

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."

**Quote by William Shakespeare**

"It is a wise father that knows his own child."

**Quote by Mark Twain**

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

**Quote by Conan O'Brien**

"Just taught my kids about taxes by eating 38% of their ice cream."

**How Deep The Father's Love For Us**

By Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
And make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss,  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon the cross,  
My sin upon His shoulder,  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there,  
Until it was accomplished,  
His dying breath has brought me life,  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything.  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ.  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer,  
But this I know with all my heart,  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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## **A Father's Love**

Author Unknown

At an evening church service, a pastor invited an elderly man to speak. The white haired man stepped into the pulpit and shared a story of a father who took his son and his son's friend sailing on the ocean. An unexpected storm blew up and the waves began crashing over their boat. Soon all three were swept into the sea.

The father in a split moment was forced to make the hardest decision of his life. He knew his son was a believer in Christ. He knew his son's friend was not. With a single rope in hand, he yelled out to his son, *"I love you son!"* and then tossed the rope to the other boy. As he saved the other lad from drowning, his son slipped beneath the waves. He sacrificed his son to save his unbelieving friend. The elderly gentleman closed his message by saying, *"How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us!"*

In one of the pews sat two teen boys. They'd actually began the service totally disengaged but this story sobered them. After the service they approached the old man. One boy said to him, *"It was a nice story but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."* The old man smiled and said, *"It sure isn't very realistic is it?! But I'm standing here today to tell you that this story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me. But just so you know boys, I was the son's friend that got saved that day!"*