

## From Slave to Son

Psalm 68:5-6 – *(5) A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. (6) God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Marriage teaches us about the union between Christ and the Church:

- Bridegroom to bride (husband to wife)
- Two become one
- Forsaking all others (leaving)
- Monogamy (cleaving)
- Sharing all things
- Intimacy
- Making decisions together
- Covenant
- Conflict resolution
- Sowing and reaping

Ephesians 5:32 – *This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.*

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Family teaches us about the relationship between Abba/Father and His sons and daughters:

- Spiritual fathers/mothers to spiritual daughters/sons
- Example and imitating (identity)
- Honoring (worshipping)
- Courage (success)
- Receiving vision (peace)
- Discipline/obedience/serving (authority)
- Blessing/giving/inheritance (affection)

Romans 8:29 – *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*

Marriage is a natural expression of Christ and the Church

Fathering is a natural expression of Abba/Father and us sons and daughters

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Romans 1:21 – *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

Romans 1:21 – *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

Through defilement, Satan has attempted to so pollute and damage the ground of your heart that nothing can exist there except the false image that he has tried to build in your life.

- You are a loser (therefore always quitting)
- You are stupid (therefore always downcast)
- You are ugly or worthless (therefore always self-conscious)
- You are a servant (therefore always poor)
- You are a victim (therefore always abused)
- You are a sinner (therefore never able to say 'no')
- **You are a slave (therefore never free)**

Proverbs 29:21 – *He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.*

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Abba/God brings apostles into our lives for the purpose of...

2 Corinthians 10:3-8 – *(3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, (4) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. (5) We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, (6) and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. (7) You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. (8) For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame.*

When the idols or images of our past worship are not pulled down and removed....they will eventually ensnare us again.

Luke 6:45 – *The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*

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So, as fathers with apostolic authority, we pull down the strongholds associated with your past idolatry .... wisdom demands that you exercise your freedom to remain free and become strong in that same freedom. Your personal peace depends upon you doing this .... and a generation rising after you is going to imitate your example.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 – *(7) For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, (8) nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; (9) not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.*

Galatians 5:1 – *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*

Romans 8:15 – *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*