

The Importance of the Father's Love

1. We are studying the Fatherhood of God. Our main topic of interest is to come to an understanding and experience of the Father's *phileo* love for us. Phileo is a Greek word translated "love" in the NT which means "a demonstrated, tender affection." Whereas **AGAPE** focuses on the TRUTH about God, **PHILEO** focuses on a TOUCH from God.
2. This phileo love begins with an INITIAL ENCOUNTER, then there are SUBSEQUENT EXPERIENCES of varying intensity, which leave you with an ONGOING AWARENESS of the Father's love and intimacy with you.
3. Why is it important for us to experience the Father's love?

The Father's Love Is the Source of Our Security

1. Security comes from knowing that the Father loves us (Rom. 8:38-39; I Jn. 4:16-19). How often Christians are stymied in their growth at this very point; they are never quite sure God has accepted them. The KNOWLEDGE of acceptance becomes ACTUALIZED when the believer walks in INTIMACY with the Father.
2. Acceptance is not INFORMATIONAL by nature, it is RELATIONAL.
Jesus said in **Jn 17:3** "*This is eternal life, to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*"
3. It is a characteristic error of the western, rational mind to make these things INFORMATIONAL issues.
4. The phileo encounter, the touch of the Father's love, fosters INTIMACY and results in SECURITY.

The Father's Love Is the Source of Our Sanctity

1. Sanctification is being SET APART for God's purposes. It is to be made *holy*. The Father's love has a lot to do with our holiness.

I Jn. 4:10 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

2. God has done what is necessary to remove the guilt and stain of our sin. Now let's look at the EXPERIENCE of God's sanctifying love.

Eph. 3:19 *...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

3. When we think of holiness or sanctity, we think of overcoming our sins. It is the Father's love which fills the deep voids in our lives that we are tempted to fill with our sin.
4. The Father's love, love which surpasses knowledge, love which is encountered and experienced, causes us to be "*filled up to all the fullness of God,*" thus leaving no room for sin.
5. Many people who long for holiness are victims of chronic sin. Once the Father's love fills them, they are then enabled to move toward freedom and holiness.
6. Pursuing holiness through our own efforts or works still leaves a void. We rely on our willpower and determination. But the power of sin is stronger than willpower. (See Col. 2:20-23.)
7. The way to SANCTITY is pursuing Father's love. When the knowledge and experience of God's love fills your life, the fullness of God will be revealed in you, and SANCTITY will result.
8. God calls on us to SEEK HIM, to SOW TO THE SPIRIT, and when we do, he promises a harvest. (Gal. 6:8) *The reality is that sanctity is a by-product of being in love with God.*

The Father's Love Is the Source of Our Identity

1. God identifies us as his child and that identifies our function in life. In other words, we know who we are.

Jn. 3:1 *See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.*

2. As we begin to encounter the Father's love, hear the Father's voice, and know the Father's touch then we begin to know who we are. IDENTITY is vital. Without it you lose your security and falter in your direction. It is the Father's love that secures you in your identity as a child of God.

The Father's Love Is the Source of Our Ministry

1. As we enter this phileo relationship, the Father shows us what he is doing, thus what we are to do. Jesus only did what the Father was doing.

John 5:19-20 *Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing."*

2. INTIMACY brings REVELATION. Our ministry in the Kingdom of God must be birthed out of the Father telling us what to do. As we grow in our intimacy WITH the Father we will also grow in our revelation FROM the Father. His love is the source of your SECURITY, your SANCTITY, your IDENTITY, and your MINISTRY.

You Won't Relent (Songwriters: Cassie Cambell / David Brymer / Misty Edwards)

You won't relent until you have it all
My heart is yours
You won't relent until you have it all
My heart is yours

I'll set you as a seal upon my heart
As a seal upon my arm
For there is love that is as strong as death
Jealousy, demanding as the grave
Many waters cannot quench this love

You won't relent until you have it all
My heart is yours
You won't relent until you have it all
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I'll set you as a seal upon my heart
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Waters cannot quench this love
You won't relent until you have it all
My heart is yours
Waters cannot quench this love
You won't relent until you have it all
My heart is yours

Come be the fire inside of me
Come be the flame upon my heart
Come be the fire inside of me
Until you and I are one