



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 21, 2020

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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What Does it Mean to Be Loved by a Father?

What does it mean to be loved by a father? Let the apostle John answer.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1 NKJV).

“Behold” See, behold, and understand. God wants us to understand how He loves us. He wants us to see all the ways God has shown His love toward us. God created man to be like Him by giving him an immortal soul. God wanted us to be like Him, but **Genesis chapter three** demonstrates just how unlike our Father mankind has become.

“What manner of love” When man chose sin and death, God refused to let His creation perish. God sent His Son to take men from darkness, hatred and death and bring them to light, love and life. The apostle Paul wrote, *“But, God has demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us,” (Romans 5:8 NASB).*

“The Father hath bestowed on us” God reached out to man while man was still living in sin and presented him a gift of His love: His only begotten son, Jesus (**John 3:16**). This gift was designed that we should learn through Jesus to become more like our Father in heaven, and the first of many brethren (**Romans 8:29**).

“That we should be called” That we should be called aloud by name. Some are proud to be called Smith, or Jones, or Brown, or White. Some are proud to be known as an award-winning writer, or a life-saving surgeon, or an Academy-award winning actor. God’s children should be proud and humbled to be called by the family name: Christian (**Acts 11:26**).

“The sons of God.” By obedient faith (**Romans 1:5**), we are related to Christ and the Father. A good name brings privileges, and wearing the name of Christ as a son of God means even more than having a human family name. We are servants of righteousness (**Romans 6:17-18**). We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (**Romans 8:17**).

We are redeemed (**Galati3:13**).3:13). We have become children of God by putting Christ on in baptism (**Galatians 3:26-27**). What does it mean to be loved by a father? It means more than anything.

John Henson

Handprints Aren't So Bad After All

The bags were packed, goodbye's were said, and the children were excited as they prepared to go with their grandparents for a few days to Tennessee. My wife and I do not take a lot of overnight trips where we'll be apart, but on this occasion she and the kids had an opportunity to spend a few days with her parents while I stayed home to attend a week-long seminar class.

As they pulled out of the drive, I closed the door and turned toward the empty house. As I turned, an item on the couch caught my eye. Approaching, I found an old book of cartoons called *The Family Circus* by Bill Keane. I'm sure you remember the cartoon from the Sunday comics. My youngest daughter has taken to reading these old cartoon collection books we found at my parents house. As she waited for "time to go," she had been sitting on the couch reading this very book. When she left, she had left it open to the last page she had been reading.

I picked the book up, and read the first cartoon on the page. The picture showed the mother down on her hands and knees at the front door cleaning dirty hand prints, kids all around her. A saleslady walks up and says, "My goodness! Look at those DARLING little hand prints!"

A day or so later, I'm missing my wife and kids. I'm looking around the house at small messes the kids left. A sock here, coloring book there, an empty coke can. At that moment, with them a couple hundred miles away, those little "messes" started looking pretty "darling," like in the cartoon.

Sometimes we don't realize how much we appreciate our loved ones until they are away from us. Sometimes it takes a little distance to remember that the little things we nag our children about are really not that bad, when faced with the thought of their absence. Indeed children are a gift of the Lord, **Psalm 127:3**, and hand prints aren't so bad, after all.