

4. CONCLUSIONS ARISING FROM THE DOCTRINE OF COMMUNION WITH THE FATHER IN LOVE

We as Christians very much neglect a loving fellowship with the Father. So, few of us are actually acquainted with this great privilege. Our ignorance in these matters causes us to forfeit great comforts and Blessings in this regard.

Why are we ignorant? Firstly, the extended Christian ministry is often a social gospel. And secondly, we do not earnestly seek God's face and His wisdom to understand, in the face of instant fixes in the secular world.

We are often full of fears and doubts over God's goodwill and kindness to us. We understand our master's suffering and sacrifice on our behalf, but we do not comprehend that the source of Jesus' selfless work was the love of the Father for us. We must learn to think of His everlasting gentleness and compassion. We need to remember that it was the Father Himself who devised the way forward for us to be reconciled to Himself - because of His great love for us.

God does not need us. We have nothing to contribute to His happiness or satisfaction. But it was out of love that God not only created the universe, but man himself also. In so doing, the work of God satisfies not only His happiness, but He has also provided for our happiness. And it was through His Beloved son that He has provided for our ultimate happiness.

Once we are able to comprehend this loving eternal purpose of the Father, we cannot but bring our souls to the lowest depths of humbleness and thankfulness for this unmerited love to us.

God's love for us is an eternal love. It is not a love according to His prevailing mood, as we are so often want. From before the beginning of time, right through to eternity, God loves His saints. The Father's delight in His Son is a reflection of His love to us, in that His Son would undertake the work of salvation to redeem sinful man.

The love of the Father is given freely to us. That love is because He wanted to love us, not that there was anything in us to love. It is the free choice of God to love those He chooses to love, and this is the basis of the doctrine of predestination.

The Father's love for us is unchangeable. Although we may experience times that God appears to hide His face from us, His promise of "I will never leave you or forsake you" is based God's truthfulness. For this reason, God shows us infinite patience and forbearance.

God's love is selective. This is God's sovereign will and prerogative. As we have the prerogative to make certain choices in our lives, so God has the supreme prerogative to choose whom He wishes to save. "Jacob, I have loved, but Esau have I hated" If we find ourselves amongst those that God has chosen, our natural reaction should be one of exceptional thanks and gratitude. We have all come from a common cesspool of sin.

We will never experience the sweetness of God's love until we have received it. And when we do, we need to continually remind ourselves that God loves us with His free eternal love. Then we are to embrace Him by faith and let our hearts be filled with His love. Then, let the love of the Father stir you to love Him also.

In order for us to be encouraged in this, let us consider that it is the greatest desire of God our Father that we should have a loving fellowship with Him. Whom of us as parents, do not desire to have a loving relationship with our children? And so, it is with God, that He desires that we receive Him into our heart and soul, as a Father, full of love and tenderness towards us.

There is nothing more grievous to God our Father than to have His children consider Him to be of God of anger and retribution to His children. The evil one is filled with joy at God's children when they have hard thoughts of God. The devil is the father of lies and deception.

Did he not deceive Adam and Eve, did he not try to deceive our Master in the wilderness? Having had the victory in the garden, he continues to use it with impunity. We are so quick to question the Father's care for us. HAB 1:2 "How long Oh Lord, must I call for help" But we forget that God's time is not our time, and everything God does is good. There is the right time for everything ECC 3: 1-8 AND ECC 3 :14 "I know that everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it."

Our doubts of the Father's kindness to us, brings Him much anguish, because He knows these doubts lead us to avoid walking with Him. Receiving the Father as one who loves us, gives Him the honour He desires, and is worthy of, and is exceedingly pleasing to Him.

Why do we think of God as hard, austere, severe and unable to be pleased? These are the characteristics of sinful man, not of God. And God hates those thoughts of man towards Himself. We have no further to look than the influence of Satan on the sinfulness of our hearts.

But the more we see of God's love, so much more shall we delight in Him.