

Father and Son

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[John 14: 23-24] Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words, and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

[John 15: 9-10] As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Tomorrow is the Fathers' Day in America. So, I looked up the New Testament verses that are related to Jesus and His heavenly Father and meditated on the topic of 'Father and Son' in heaven and on earth. Studying the heavenly father-son relationship will help us learn what the earthly father-son relationship should be.

There are more than 30 verses of what Lord Jesus said about His relationship with His Father in heaven. Why did He speak so many times about the heavenly Father-Son relationship? Perhaps His desire was that His disciples/ followers learn the heavenly Father-Son relationship and take part in the same relationship by becoming the children of God through Him. Furthermore, I believe Lord Jesus desires that the Christians aspire to have similar father-son relationships in their families.

Of the many characteristics of the heavenly Father-Son relationship, the most notable fact is that there has been the agape love between the Father and the Son from before the foundation of the world. In verse 15:9, Lord Jesus said, "I love you as My Father has loved me." Therefore, we ought to not only love God through Christ but also aspire to have the same pure, unconditional love between fathers and their children.

Lord Jesus then explained the mutual working relationship between the Father and the Son during Son's lifetime ministry here on earth. The Son understood completely the plan and purpose that the Father had on Son's earthly mission and willingly followed the plan with the same mind and will. This is the first principle that must be kept by all servants of Christ in their ministerial work.

[John 5:19-20] Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

The Father showed what He does to the Son. And the Son did His work to fulfil the Father's plan and purpose. And that is why the Father loved the Son. In doing the Father's work, the Son received the words to speak from the Father and spoke those words here on earth. This is another important principle for all messengers of Christ – they ought to be in the Spirit of Christ, spend sufficient time as Christ did to receive the words to speak from the Heavenly Father, and faithfully deliver the received words, not their own thoughts and messages that did not come from God.

[John 12:49] For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

God's plan for human salvation was established between the Father and the Son before the foundation of the world with one mind and will as the apostle Peter states below. According to this plan, the Son came to earth in a human form when the right time arrived so that the Son offered His life as the sacrificial lamb for the sins of all repenting humans.

[1 Peter 1:20-21] He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Son agreed with the Father's human salvation plan and was willing to give up His life as a humble servant to the Father. And He knew the Father loved Him because of this willingness to cooperate and sacrifice. So, we see there was the joint planning in one mind, willing participation through humble sacrifice, and mutual understanding and love between the heavenly Father and the Son. All Christian fathers and children ought to aspire to have such a beautiful father-child relationship in their families.

[John 10:15,17] As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

The Son, though God Himself, compared Himself as the true vine in the care of the Father, the heavenly Vinedresser. Thus, the Son subjected Himself under the total care and control of the Father in exemplary humility.

[John 15:1-2] I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a]takes away, and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

The Son is referring to the New Testament church, which was to be established after His ascension. The Son placed this church, which is His body, under the care and control of the Father. During the Son's earthly ministry, the Father and the Son worked together. After His ascension, the Father and the Son are continuing to work together in the care of God's vineyard so that the true vine continues to bear good fruits. All churches in Christ are subject to the Father's care and control, sometimes pruning and discarding unfruitful churches, and all receive His nurturing and loving care.

[John 15:10] If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

As the vines that receive such tender care of the Vinedresser prosper in bearing fruits, so should all churches and Christians subject spiritual and physical well-being to the loving care of the Father daily so that we may abide in God's love. And this is the secret of Christian success, both spiritually and naturally. May all Christian families aspire to emulate the beautiful Father-Son relationship of Jesus and His Heavenly Father. Amen.

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