

# How to Be a Born-Again Father

When did the first relationship between a father and son begin?

<sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me **before the foundation of the world**. John 17:24 (ESV)

What can we learn from the first relationship between a father and son that might help us to be better fathers?

Example: When did God the Father voice His approval of His Son?

<sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is **my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased**.” Matthew 3:17 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is **my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased**; listen to him.” Matthew 17:5 (ESV)

Example: When was Jesus in the presence of His Heavenly Father?

<sup>29</sup> And **he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone**, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” John 8:29 (ESV)

Example: Why does Jesus obey His Heavenly Father?

<sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that **I love the Father**. Rise, let us go from here. John 14:31 (ESV)

Example: What is the connection between Jesus’ obedience to His Father, and His love for the Father?

<sup>10</sup> 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**. John 15:9–10 (ESV)

Have you ever thought of the possibility that you might obey someone's commands because you love them?

When Jesus is struggling because He knows He will suffer, what can we learn from what He says to His Heavenly Father?

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "**My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.**" <sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "**My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.**" <sup>43</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Matthew 26:36-44 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, "**Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.**" <sup>37</sup> And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup> And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. Mark 14:32-39 (ESV)

<sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "**Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**" <sup>43</sup> **And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.** <sup>44</sup> **And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.** Luke 22:39-44 (ESV)

What did Jesus ask His Father to do?

What did the Father do?

What can we learn from this about being a father?

When does God correct us and why does He do it? How does this set an example for earthly fathers to follow?

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, <sup>12</sup> **for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.** Proverbs 3:11-12 (ESV)

When does a Father have to restrain himself in the way he disciplines his children? If a father doesn't restrain himself in this way what could go wrong?

<sup>4</sup> Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, **do not provoke your children**, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3:21 (ESV)

When Jesus is dying on the cross, again He turns to His Father in prayer. What does He ask His Father to do?

<sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them**, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. Luke 23:34 (ESV)

When Jesus finally dies, what does He say to His Father? Why would He say this?

<sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!**" And having said this he breathed his last. Luke 23:46 (ESV)

What can we learn about Jesus' relationship to His Father because of His death on the cross, and His resurrection? And, what did the Father do in response to Jesus' actions?

<sup>5</sup> **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but **emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he **humbled himself** by becoming **obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore **God has highly exalted him** and **bestowed on him the name that is above every name,** <sup>10</sup> so that

**at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5–11 (ESV)

After Jesus rose again, and ascended into Heaven, what was His relationship like with His Father then?

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**, Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of God**, Hebrews 10:12 (ESV)

When and how can we honor our children following the example God the Father set?

How can we become more like the Father? How is it possible for us to be born-again Fathers?

<sup>2</sup> May **grace and peace be multiplied** to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**. <sup>3</sup> **His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him** who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which **he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that** through them **you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:2–4 (ESV)