

# PHILEMON

## Lesson 8: OUR FATHER

19 February, 2016

When Paul says “**Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father**” (vs. 3), there are eleven people specifically mentioned in this letter who are included as brethren—because God is their Father.

No religion on this earth has a god who is also a father. This concept is only found in Christianity. In Christ we have a PERSONAL relationship to the God who gives us life, provides for all our needs, protects us, instructs us, and has an inheritance reserved for us.

Old Testament saints had a different kind of relationship with God. He’s not referred to as “Father.” It was important to be able to trace your genealogy backwards to “father Abraham.” If you could do that, you had part in the earthly inheritance promised to Abraham and his descendants.

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### LUKE 2:48-49

In Jesus’ first recorded words in the Bible, His choice of words reveals that He came to establish something new concerning the relationship between man and God. God was His Father.

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### LUKE 23:34, 46

Jesus’ last words before He died on the cross also reveal this special relationship to God as His Father. Jesus established this relationship for those who would receive Him as Savior (John 1:12).

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### MATTHEW 6:5-9

Jesus taught His disciples to pray “**to thy Father**” (vs. 6), “**Our Father, which art in heaven**” (vs. 9). This was different from any of the Old Testament prayers offered by the prophets and saints.

First Jesus gave examples of the wrong way to pray, but when He demonstrated the right way, the first lesson was this: now you can address God as your Father.

*—It’s a rare and marvelous privilege to be able to call God your Father.*

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**JOHN 20:16-17**

When Mary saw Jesus resurrected, he told her “God is my God—and your God. He’s my Father—and your Father.” He’s not denying His deity; Jesus is God. But because He came to earth as a man, we can now have a very special relationship with God. In fact, it’s the same relationship Jesus had with God when he walked this earth.

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Once you become a child of God by spiritual birth (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8), there are three things that are implied by the relationship you have with God as your Father:

1. He will meet your need because the nature of the relationship demands it of Him (Luke 11:9-13).

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2. You can’t do whatever you want. You must walk in His ways. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). God’s rules benefit and protect you.

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3. God will discipline His children. His discipline reveals the Father/child relationship (Hebrews 12:5-15). God doesn’t promise His children they’ll be pain free in this life. But the pain you will experience will be administered by One who loves and cares for you and it will result in your well-being and will produce fruit.

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