

## Psalm 103 The Fatherhood of God

**Typically speaking: Mother's day gets a lot more attention in our society than Father's day!**

A) For instance 2019 – USA 25 billion dollars spent – “only” \$16 billion on Father's day

B) Back before cell Phones - On Mother's Day – Phone companies revealed - phone calls would reach **an all-time high**.

1) Do you know when the most **collect calls happen?**  
You guessed – FATHERS DAY!

C) The idea of Father's Day was originally met with laughter.

1) It was the target of much satire, parody

D) local newspaper complaining that it would lead to mindless promotions such as ‘National Clean Your Desk Day’.

**Commercials – Mother's Day – Diamonds on Sale for \$2000 –**

A) Father's day – Men's cargo shorts on sale for \$15

B) Dads sometimes do not get the appreciation that they deserve

C) But the impact of a present loving Dad in the home is ENORMOUS

**85% of youth who are currently in prison grew up in a fatherless home**

A) 70% YOUTH CORRECTIONS – NO DAD

B) Drug abuse stats – Sexual immorality – all affected by the lack of a Father influence

C) Statistics show – When there is a loving dad who is present in the home Kids

1) Do better in School – college

2) Less likely to live in poverty

3) Less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol

4) More likely to take Healthy Risk

**A Dad's influence is Huge**

A) On this father's day – to consider the Fatherhood of God. - His love for all of us –

B) The Father who wants to make all of us Dads more like himself

C) Psalm 103 – David is the author and he is amazed and overwhelmed at the Love and heart and Character of God.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And forget not all His benefits:

3 Who forgives all your iniquities,

Who heals all your diseases,

4 Who redeems your life from destruction,

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The Lord executes righteousness

And justice for all who are oppressed.

7 He made known His ways to Moses,

His acts to the children of Israel.

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,

Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

9 He will not always strive with us,

Nor will He keep His anger forever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,

So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

12 As far as the east is from the west,

So far has He removed our transgressions from

us.

13 As a father pities his children,

So the Lord pities those who fear Him.

**As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. ESV**

14 For He knows our frame;

He remembers that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass;

As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

And its place remembers it no more.

17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him,

And His righteousness to children's children.

**V.13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

## Our God is a compassionate Father – Why?

14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field; ESV

**The Bible tells us that man is fearfully and wonderfully made by God**

A) Human body is amazing / Bloody noses this week – 16 in 4 days

B) But we have been made with a bit of frailty to our lives

1) Made to live dependent upon our God – Like sheep Psalm 23

C) Dependent upon our Heavenly Father

**Now The idea of God as a personal father for individuals was not a common idea in the OT**

A) God is referred to as a Father 14 times in the OT but the context was always – nationally – Israel

B) But when we come into the NT we find Jesus teaching his disciples to pray in the sermon on the

D) Jesus said when you pray – address God as your Father

1) Father = abba – Daddy **radical NEW concept**

**Jesus is making it personal – Intimate: Not religion but RELATIONSHIP –**

A) Interesting that there is no prayer to God as Father in the Bible until – Jesus does it – Model prayer -

B) **So talk to Him as your daddy-**

1) Jesus was teaching that Prayer is primarily about spending intimate time with God – with Dad!

C) The Apostle John picks up on the wonder of this new concept when he writes in 1 John 3:1

**Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! – 1 John 3:1**

A) John begins - Behold: carries the idea of looking at something with a sense of wonder and amazement

B) What is John amazed by? – THE LOVE OF GOD

1) More specifically – that it is a father kind of love

C) It is important for us to not lose that sense of wonder that the God **who SPOKE** the universe into being

1) The God **who HOLDS** the world in the span of his hand

D) The God **who SUSTAINS** ALL THINGS

1) Is the same God who loves you and me

**And sent His only begotten son to this earth – Die to pay the price for our sins –**

A) So that we who were sinners, enemies – could be saved – forgiven and brought into his family – thru faith in JESUS

B) John 1:12 **To as many as received him – he gave the the right to become children of God ..... believe on his name**

C) His plan all along to see sinners forgiven cleansed

1) Brought into his family – His Children – he could be their father

D) He is the creator of every human being – but he is only the FATHER to those who believe

E) For the rest of time today – I want us to consider the Love of our Heavenly Father

1) Literally talk all day – consider 4 aspects of his love

**The Fathers love is a love that speaks of Protection**

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And forget not all His benefits:

3 Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,

4 Who redeems your life from destruction,

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**David describes this picture of God as our Father who is always looking out for us.**

A) Why? You could say He is so into us

B)Cool picture of this in a statement that is made in Exodus 19 – His people Israel – true of us too

*9 For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.*

C)To say that the Lord's Portion is His People – say it is His thing –

1)God is saying that He is Into His People / The Body

D)Continues – v.10 *"He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.*

**The Apple of His eye refers to His Pupil – which is an interesting analogy**

A)If you talk to an optometrist – **The fasted reflex in your Body** is the reflex that covers your Eye when Danger is heading its way

B)They say that it responds at one one thousandth of a second – Fast

C)Follow the analogy – the Lord is saying you are my portion – **the apple of my eye**

1)Natural reflex to protect you and respond to you

**There is nothing that is going to come your way that will catch him off Guard**

A)When Danger comes – He is there !!!

B)He is on it !!!! - Because we are the apple of His eye !!!

C)But I think some of us might respond – why does it feel sometimes like he is not there?

1)I am falling – scary predicament

D)I am crying out to God and he doesn't seem to be responding – what is up with that?

**The Next Phrase gives the answer**

**11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,**

A)Eagles have an interesting way of Nurturing & training their Young

B)When a Momma Eagle – Builds it's nest – on the side of a Cliff gather sticks –make a nest

C)The little baby Eagle is born Momma brings it food / Breakfast lunch & Dinner

D)And the Little Eaglet lives there in the comforts of the Nest until it gets so big that the Sticks begin to poke at it – Cramped in the nest

**Suddenly that nest is not quite as comfortable as it once was – but there is a reason for that –**

A)The Momma doesn't want that Little Eaglet to live in that Nest the Rest of his life

B) So the Momma Eagle does a Most Interesting thing *She Stirs up the Nest* –

1)causing Little Eaglet to fall out

C)The Eaglet is Falling / Falling – wondering – what is up w/ my Mom – call & report her to EPS

1) Eaglet protective services

D)But as the Eaglet falls 50- 100 ft or so –

1)suddenly the Momma Eagle comes swooping down – catches him – bears him up on her wings – back to nest

**This will happen over and over again until the Eaglet learns to spread its wings and fly.**

A)That is what our Father does with us from time to time.

B)He stirs our nest – he stirs us out of our comfort zones –

1)Why – Train us – to learn how to soar - to trust him

C)Our Youth is renewed like the Eagles

D)But all the while he is watching over us – His plan in our lives is carried out

**So A Love that speaks of Protection – #2 A Love that speaks of Acceptance**

A)There is a Joy and pain associated with child birth

B)sometimes hours of Labor – mom is pushing dad is trying to help

C)Lamaze classes – breath - Denise was induced with all 3 of our kids

1)The whole Lamaze thing goes out the window – Get out of my face

**D)Pain involved in Child birth - But as soon as the baby is born – pain turns into pleasure – Joy**

**1)He is beautiful- Bound and connection**

**E)Never seen parents – debate – Should we keep her/him**

**F)Dad doesn't sit JR. down in the hospital -go over the rules of living in the house**

**1)That Child is accepted into the family**

**Born again – Ephesians 1:7 We are accepted into the Beloved**

**A)JESUS went through the pain of the cross to bring us into the family**

**B)God says – Come just as you are! – Accept you for who you are.**

**C)He doesn't tell us to clean up our act – get it together – he says come to me – surrender**

**D)I will do a work in you – Inside your heart that will be evidenced on the outside of your life**

**1)Actions / attitudes and relationships**

**A Love that speaks of Protection –**

**#2 A Love that speaks of Acceptance**

**#3 A Love that says I am well pleased with you**

**A)Jesus Baptism – The father said from Heaven – This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased**

**B)Interesting that up to that point – Jesus had done no ministry**

**1)No miracles that we know of**

**C)Lived the first 30 yrs of his life in the home of Joseph and Mary**

**1)Joseph died – Jesus took care of the carpenter business taking care of the family**

**In other words – He was just being a faithful guy in taking care of his family and loving God his father with all his heart**

**A)His Heavenly father – says – You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.**

**B)Listen – Do you love the Lord? Are you trying to be faithful in walking with him?**

**1)Faithful to take care of your family?**

**C)His heart toward you today – Beloved son or daughter – He is well pleased.**

**1)Posting pics of you on his IG account – Your pic on his Frig**

**D)He is pleased with you – you are in Christ**

**1)You belong to him -**

**A Love that speaks of Protection –**

**#2 A Love that speaks of Acceptance**

**#3 A Love that says I am well pleased with you**

**#4 A love that says – You can count on me**

**In the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Derek Redmond of the US was favored win 400 meter race!**

**A)But Halfway through semifinal heat, fiery pain seared through right leg - crumpled to track with torn hamstring**

**B)As medical attendants approaching - Redmond fought to his feet Pushing away coaches - medical people -dec determined to finish race!**

**C)When he reached the home stretch, his dad Jim who had fought through the crowd and security came onto the track to meet his son**

**D)Derek's Dad Jim said to his weeping son – You don't have to do this -**

**1)Derek said "Yes, I do" I have to finish the race.**

**E)Well then, Dad said - We are going to finish together-**

**1)Such a touching Olympic moment  
Check it out - Video**

**The Christian life is likened to a race – sometimes in the midst of the race – we fall down – Wiped out**

**A)Our Heavenly father doesn't come to rub our face in the ground –**

**B)Picks us up dust us off – says come on we are going to finish together. -**

**1)You are going to make it**

**<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6**

**C)David says in our Psalm**

**8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**

9 He will not always strive with us, Chide us  
Nor will He keep His anger forever.  
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.  
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
So great is His mercy toward those who fear  
Him;  
12 As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from  
us.

**Imagine how our lives would change if we really  
believed that the Lord was that kind of father?**

**A)I was fortunate – had a great dad – who  
believed in me – encouraged me always there for  
me**

**B)Result confidence in life –**

**C)Our Heavenly father is the best dad – loves you  
perfect love – unconditionally**

1)For you – committed to you – wants the best for  
you

**Our lives would change dramatically if we lived  
like we believed that**

**A)Imagine the confidence we would have to step  
out in faith.**

**B)Trust him in the Difficulties –**

**C)Too good to be true? NOPE -**

1)Your heavenly father is that for you.  
**BELIEVE IT**

**The results of knowing God as our Father**

Therefore the world does not know us, because it did  
not know Him. 1 John 3:2a

**A)Live different from the world – Distinction  
those Christians have a peace about them**

**B)A confidence – serenity**

**The results of knowing God as our Father**

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has  
not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know  
that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for  
we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2b

**Confidence – that the Lord is doing a work in us  
that he is going to complete**

**A)He is committed to finishing the work that he  
began in us**

**B)Transforming us now!**

**C)Our Hope**

**Imagine Dads the effect on our kids if we tried to  
model this kind of love**

**A)Our kids knew that they have a protector in us**

**B)Accepted for who they are –**

**C)Pleased with them –**

**1)Count on us**

<sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies  
himself, just as He is pure. 1 JOHN 3:3