



Fundamentos

LESSON 57

Foundations Curriculum

And the Father Will Love Him

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Introduction

And the Father Will Love Him

In this fifty-seventh lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will talk about the Father — about how to respond to the Father.

We have learned a great deal about each of the persons of the Trinity: about the Son, about the Holy Spirit. How do we respond and make ourselves available in the hands of God so that the Holy Spirit of God may fill our lives?

Would you know how to respond to the Father? How should His fatherhood be absorbed from the standpoint of the Son of God?

Is our relationship with the Father a two-way relationship? Let us understand in this lesson how this should happen.

1) Is Our Relationship with the Father a Two-Way Relationship?

How should the fatherhood of the Father be absorbed from the standpoint of the Son of God?

The Holy Spirit wants to place this question in our hearts and help us in the development of this two-way relationship.

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."

John 14:23 (NKJV)

Notice this phrase in particular: and My Father will love him.

The subject — the fatherhood of God — in about 90% of the various sermons we have already heard, and even preached, focuses on what the Father is and on what the Father has done and does for us. He cares for us, He provides what we need. This is an unquestionable truth.

The love of God for us brings much encouragement, comfort, and benefit. We always feel good knowing this.

We were adopted as children, and this is a truth very beneficial to all of us. It helps us to walk by faith, to walk with God. And knowing His goodness and fatherhood also helps us rest in God's provision.

I can say that I saw the provision of God in my father's life even before I was converted to Jesus. I saw miracles done by God, supplying for our household.

I was already in church, but I had not understood how I could be free in His presence, because Jesus paid my debt — He paid it all. I only came to understand this later.

And the Father will love him...

2) The Love of God Not as Cause, but as Effect of Our Love

One step further — that 10% that is not usually spoken of in sermons — is exactly what we want to observe today.

I want to draw attention to what the text points out: the love of God not as cause, but as effect of our love.

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."

John 14:23 (NKJV)

The text says: If anyone loves Me... he will keep My word.

Loving Jesus makes us keep His Word, and the Father will love us for this. He will love us for this attitude and disposition to keep and obey.

This is what we call the love of God as effect and not as cause.

How is it possible for Jesus to place this condition, when we know that God loved us even before the foundation of the world?

The apostle John said that we love Him because He first loved us. God loved us first. The love of God is the cause; our love is the effect.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

Notice what the text says: God so loved the world!

Given this, why does Jesus place this love as an effect? As a consequence?

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

From the initial text, Jesus is placing this love as an effect.

In this case, how do we reconcile this truth with what the other texts present?

3) Satisfied Love Is the Second Level

This love that Jesus refers to, let us call satisfied love. It begins in God and is reflected in us.

Let us think of ourselves as children (from our own point of view) — our natural life compared with our spiritual relationship with the Father.

Think of a little child who rejoices when his father comes home, and plays with him. He hugs his father. There is a love there, a child's love, but it is very limited. The child's constant disobedience proves this.

Another demonstration of the little child's limitation is when a child insists on getting what he wants. He has difficulty getting past the whys, the refusals, and the limits set for him.

There is another love that is grounded in the love of the Father. It is at another stage — it is not caught up in the whys. It has great respect for the Father. It expresses constant gratitude.

This would be that love which bears all things, believes all things, endures all things, as the text of 1 Corinthians 13 says.

This second level also includes love for the brethren. The first letter of John has 105 verses, and 16 of them deal with our love for one another.

The letter is written to warn those who think they are in God and are not. The text warns about those who are in sin, living according to deceptive theologies, but who do not love their brothers.

As the apostle rightly pointed out, whoever does not love has not been born again.

For this reason, when there is divorce in the church (separation among brothers and sisters, a breaking of relationship), we can say that love was not put into practice. Let us remember that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin when we have fellowship with one another.

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 John 3:9 (NKJV)

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:15 (NKJV)

4) The Third Level Would Be Mature Love

Here, love has already gone further. It is the love that loses, that renounces, that goes beyond. It chooses suffering for others, for God. It is not about enduring, but about choosing to suffer for others, for God.

This is a love that will be extended even to enemies. A suffering love.

Jesus loved us when we were His enemies.

Jesus commanded us to pray for those who persecute us and try to do evil against us.

5) The Fourth Level of Love Is Superior Love

That love of Jesus, seen in everything, wanting to please the Father.

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

John 4:34 (NKJV)

This is the love that Jesus had for the Father and demonstrated throughout His life. He not only loved the Father, but also made Him known, expressing the love of a Son for His Father. Everything Jesus did was for the Father. He never placed His own well-being above the Father's will or the honor of His name.

Having seen this, the highest goal of fatherhood would not be the Father's love for us, but our response to it.

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37 (NKJV)

Whoever is grounded in the love of the Father is focused on developing his love for the Father.

He will be concerned about what brings the Father joy and what grieves the Father. Whatever the Father abhors, he also wants far from himself (and from those others whom he loves).

This love is for those who have already passed beyond the initial stage of faith.

We do not need more proof of the Father's love toward us. The love of God has been made completely clear to us in the forgiveness of sins, in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John 3:1 (NKJV)

What more proof do we need? In preserving the church, in healing us, in the many miracles He has done and does for us and around us — this is proof of that love.

Do we still need proof? No.

The great majority of us do not need proof of God's love. The great question is whether we love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Is doing His will in our heart? Is it part of my delight to please Him?

Do those around me do the will of the Father?

The nature of God is love. The work of God in us is the love of God in us.

We do not need more proof than this. He has already done everything.

Reflect with me: can we say the same thing that Jesus said? “My food is to do the will of My Father”?

A precious tip:

A good place to start putting this into practice would be to decide completely not to love the world. Do not love the world.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

The nature of God is love. But the work of God in us is the love of God for us. It is important to make clear that the love of the Father is not in the one who loves the world.

God's interests must come first — as in the Lord's Prayer: Your will be done. Hallowed be Your name. The other things also belong in the prayer and are important: food, escaping temptation, forgiveness.

But these come afterward. Loving Him and pleasing Him must come before everything else in our lives.

We need to be held, we need forgiveness, we need deliverance from temptation, but none of this comes before what belongs to the name and glory of the Father.

CONCLUSION

As Jesus said: “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.”

In light of what we have seen so far, it is important to meditate sincerely: How do I read this text today?

If it is a love that is consequent, it is the effect of our relationship of love. I have no way to love if He did not love first.

Here He is speaking of the Father loving us with a satisfied love, a happy love. A love full of joy. One whose love is reciprocated.

The fatherhood of God is completed when the children love the Father with all their heart.

I want no other priority than to love the Father first, above everyone and everything. My Father will rejoice over this love. May it be the center of our relationship with God.

Our love for Him is being examined every day by the Holy Spirit. Listen to that voice, brothers and sisters. Seek the development of this relationship with your Father.

May our love increase more and more each day.

Content Review

In this fifty-seventh lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned about the fatherhood of God and what the Son's love for the Father was like. Is our relationship with the Father a two-way relationship?

Jesus' love for God the Father did not seek His own interests or well-being. It sought to please Him above all things.

How should we respond to the Father's love? By keeping His commandments. Jesus said that if anyone loves Him, he will keep His Word and will be loved by his Father. This is the kind of love for God the Father that does not appear as cause, but as effect of our love. It is this love that we should seek.

We already know the goodness of God in the many things He has done for us — miracles and provision. But knowing the Father's love as the effect of our love for Him is something we should seek every day.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** For beginning Christians in the faith: Do I believe that God the Father cares for me?
- 02** For beginning Christians in the faith: Do I have gratitude toward God, or doubt, demand, and complaint?
- 03** For beginning Christians in the faith: Have I abandoned love for the world and the things that are in the world?
- 04** For those established in the faith: Am I willing to make any sacrifice?
- 05** For those established in the faith: Do I care about loving those who persecute me?
- 06** For those mature in the faith and in the walk: Is the name of God first place in my heart?
- 07** For those mature in the faith and in the walk: Do I desire with all my heart that the Father's will be done everywhere?
- 08** For those mature in the faith and in the walk: Do I work and strive toward this?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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