

Be Like Your Heavenly Father
06-16-19

There is a change of Identity for God between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament, God is Jehovah, a name used nearly 6,000 times. This was a special covenant name (Exodus 6:2-6) that was given for Israel to know God. But in the New Testament, Jehovah is not once. In the converse, the Old Testament only refers to God as a Father 9 times, and 5 are prophetic. In the New Testament God is referred to as a Father 82 times, "Your Father", "Our Father" is used 32 times, and "Heavenly Father" is used 7 times. The Old Testament Jehovah sees God as a kind covenant master; the New Testament Father speaks to an adoption by grace. The Old Testament prophets saw this coming (Isaiah 56:5-7) through the Gospel of Jesus. Ultimately, the Old Testament is the story of the Children of Israel, and the New Testament is the story of the Children of God.

John 1:12 *But as many as received (Jesus), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*

Romans 8:15 *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

2 Corinthians 6:18 *"And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.*

1 John 3:1 *See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.*

There are important implications of this covenant.

1. He loves us more than we love Him

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

2. He wants the best for us

Matthew 7:11 *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"*

3. He knows what He is doing

Matthew 6:8 *"So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him"*

4. He makes the rules

If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

One important aspect of this divine Fatherhood: I expect you to look/act like Me

Ephesians 5:1 *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children*

(1) Love like our Heavenly Father

Matthew 5:43-48

(2) Be merciful like our Heavenly Father

Luke 6:35-36

(3) Be holy like our Heavenly Father

1 Peter 1:13-16