



THE LOVE LETTER

Abba's Arms International, Inc.
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A Great Big Thank You!!



We want to thank all of you who were praying for us during the past several months as Abba's Arms International, Inc. helped bring Mark Head and Mark Gyde of Fatherheart Ministries to State College. Both weekend conferences, *Coming Home* and *A Father To YOU*, were a huge success and we have gotten many positive comments from those who came to the events. We had 175 people at the first conference in June and 115 for the second one in September. There were powerful times of ministry by both speakers with noticeable impacts on those who attended. You can listen to the podcasts of the two Sunday service messages June 28th and September 20th at State College Assembly's website <http://www.scassembly.org/> We also thank you for your prayers for Sue and I as we helped with the Fatherheart A School in Landenburg, PA September 20 – 26, 2015. There were 40 people at the school and all were greatly impacted by the week of ministry.

Where Are You Sitting?

When we buy tickets to a sporting event or special performance, we always want to sit in the best seats possible so that we can have a good view or experience during the game or concert. We are willing to pay extra money to get a better place to sit, or stand in long lines before the event to make sure we get close to the performers or in the front rows. In our house Sue and I have a special chair or place to sit where we feel comfortable, can rest, and enjoy a good book or a pretty view out the window.

Well, Father has prepared a special place for us to sit with Him too! **Eph. 2:4-7** "...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in ages to come He might show us the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Now, as far as I'm (Rick) concerned, those are the best seats in the house!

Jesus is seated next to the Father on His right side and Jesus said that "where I am, you will be also." **John 12:26** Our being seated with Jesus implies that we have significance, importance, and

relationship with the Father and His Son! Being seated also implies that we have ceased from working and doing things in our own effort. We are at peace and rest just being with Father and being His sons and daughters. We just have to decide to sit down!!

Jesus told Mary in the Garden before His ascension to tell the disciples, "...I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." **John 20:17** We are Jesus' brothers and sisters with the same Father! We are part of the family! We also will have a place at the banqueting table with our name on it because we are part of the family. We belong! Father loves us and accepts us just the way we are!

A little child does not worry about being loved and accepted; they just expect it from their parents (until they may learn otherwise!). Unfortunately, what we learn and experience growing up may cause us to feel uncomfortable about being seated in Heavenly places and being loved and accepted by our Heavenly Father. Just like I have had to do, you may also need to reprogram your thinking and the

images on your heart to see yourself as a true son or daughter!

Heart Images

Eph. 4:22-24 Amp says, "put off and discard your old unrenewed self ... be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind... and put on the new nature (the regenerated self) created in God's image..." Our actions are a direct response to what our heart is seeing. What the heart sees and believes is okay to do, safe to do, or desirable to do, the body will do. It's all about changing the images in our heart. When we change the images on our heart, it empowers us to change the cellular memory and see other people, conditions and circumstances differently. Everything in life is controlled by the images in our heart. Now I know why it's so hard to break away from sugar; I keep seeing (and tasting) those yummy desserts in my heart!

Concept vs Reality

In the remainder of this article, I would like to put a new image on your image maker of who you are in Christ as



a son or daughter. The reason I'm emphasizing images is because images are the language of the heart. Too much of what goes on in the church comes from the head (left brain) and does not impact our heart (right brain) where the images are stored. If your heart is not impacted, what I share will have no lasting results in your life. For us to change, our heart has to be changed first. Authentic Transformation occurs in our heart. For me to have effective communication with you, the image on my heart has to become the image on your heart.

One of the biggest hindrances to walking as a **son** or **daughter** is that we don't have a true understanding of those two words. You don't really know a word until you have experienced it. Our education system has duped us into thinking that all we need is a definition and then we use our mind and logical thinking to apply it to our life. Paul warned us to "...not walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart..." **Eph. 4:17-18**

If we know the word (definition only), but we have not experienced it in our heart, we're walking in the futility of our mind!

I think that everyone could give me a definition for the word "son" "or "daughter." The same thing could be said for the word "father" or "Father's Love." When Sue and I tell people about our ministry to help people experience the Father's Love, we have realized that most people have no clue what we are really talking about. You can tell by their response and the expressions on their faces. For most people they are just words that they have read in the Bible or heard someone talk about, and they have never experienced the Father, His Love, or being a son or daughter. One of the first things I heard as I began experiencing the Father was from Barry Adams. He said, "You can't be a son without having a father." My logical left brain quickly kicked in and I thought, "He's just stating the obvious! Everybody knows that!" It has only been

recently that those words have really begun to sink into my heart and impact me in a totally different way as I have experienced the Father for myself.

Image of Being a Son

I like what Mark Gyde, author of *A Father To You*, said, "A lot of people know that I am a father because I have four children, but only my children know me as father because they have allowed me to father them." That statement has really rocked my thinking about being a son. I started to ask myself, "Have I really allowed Him to father me?" Sue was wondering the same thing and she asked the Father how she would know if there were areas where she had not allowed Him to father her. The Father's response was powerful. He said, "**Any area of your heart where you still do not have My heart is an area where you have not allowed Me to father you.**" WOW! When she told me that, I started thinking about all the areas where I still did not have His heart. The Holy Spirit began pointing out my bad attitudes towards certain groups of people, certain religions, and even how I can still respond to people who don't do things the way that I think they should be done (like my wife!)! I realize that there is still a lot more parenting that my Heavenly Father has to do in my heart!



In the midst of that, Father also pointed His finger to another area of my life. He said, "**You have been trying to be a son to me through the lens of how you were a son to your natural father.**" That was another zinger for me! I began to think about how little I allowed my dad to father me. I was very independent and tried to control everything myself. I didn't depend upon my father for much more than the necessities and money for school! I seldom asked him for advice or help in doing anything. And that was exactly how I was treating my Heavenly Father.

In order to allow our heavenly Father to father us, we have to come to Him in complete submission. **Father can only**

speak into the areas of our heart that we have submitted to Him. Jesus modelled the perfect example of a son to his father.

There was a big craze in the 90's about WWJD, "What Would Jesus Do?" Unfortunately, most people tried to guess what Jesus would do and got into the flesh and works rather than following the example of a true son. What did Jesus do in every situation? Jesus went aside and spent time with the Father every day. Jesus recognized that, "*My Father is greater than I.*" **John 14:28** Jesus only said what the Father said to him. **John 8:26** Jesus did only what He saw the Father doing. **John 5:19**

In the past, sons would work alongside of their fathers and learn the trade or skills of their father, just like Jesus did with His earthly father learning the trade of a carpenter. Sometimes, a son would become an apprentice to a master craftsman or the disciples would join themselves with a Rabbi and learn to be just like their teacher. The apprentice or disciple would watch the craftsman work or listen to the Rabbi until they could do exactly what they saw their teacher doing. They had an image on their heart of exactly how the master did something, and they would then see themselves doing the exact same thing. Think about Elijah and Elisha in the Bible. Elisha did exactly the same things that he saw Elijah doing! That's what Jesus did too as a true son!

A Heart of Sonship

We have a heart of sonship when we are in submission to those in authority over us. The first person who was an authority over us was our natural father or father figure in our life. If we are not a son to our natural father honoring and submitting to him, it will be impossible to be a son to our Heavenly Father. God by His nature is Father and He can only relate to us as father. "*I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters.*" **2 Cor. 6:18**

If we don't have the heart of a son, there is no connection point with God. Jesus provided a way for us to become sons and daughters through the cross and forgiveness. If you have anything against your natural father, you must apply that



same forgiveness we received from Jesus and give the gift of forgiveness to your natural father. The moment we do that, God gives us back the spirit of a son and we can now also be a son to Him!
 "... because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart, crying out, "Abba Father!" **Gal. 4:6**
 Say out loud, **"I am Your child!" "You are my Father!" "I am a son!"**

We need to have the heart of a son, first towards our natural father, then towards God. When we do, then we can start being a son to others in the church and allow our Heavenly Father to father us through them. You have to have the heart of a son before you can receive the anointing that is on someone else. You can also start receiving the comforting love of the Father through other people and find the peace, rest, and joy that we needed but may not have gotten as a child.

One area of being a son and letting my Heavenly Father "father" me was to stop trying to do everything myself or without His involvement. Jesus again sets the standard here as a son when He says in **John 14:10** "The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does the works." As sons, we have to step back and allow the Father to do the works through us or allow someone else do it for us. **My job is to be loved! Be His son! Be blessed!**

Too often we think that Father has a "favor line." Do good, get good; do bad get bad. If we do everything that pleases Him, we get blessed, but if we do the wrong thing, we get the curse or the wrath of God. The reality is that God does not have a favor line. He loves us the same whether we love Him or ever do another thing for Him. We don't have to ask the questions, "Am I pleasing in God's sight?" "Does He still love me, especially after what I've done?" "Am I accepted before God?" Those questions put all the focus on us to do it right or get it right. It puts us under the Law again, being "right" or "wrong." It's rooted in pride, independence, and false responsibility. Actually, there's nothing that we can do that will ever cause Him

to love us less, and there's nothing we can ever do that will cause Him to love us more than He does right now. What we need to ask, "Does Father still love Jesus?" "Is Jesus pleasing to the Father?" "Is Jesus accepted before the Father?" because as Jesus is so are we in this world! **1 John 4:17 We are loved, accepted, and well pleasing to Father because of the finished work of the cross!**

Father also wants to do things with us. That was hard for me to believe because my father was always too busy to have any time to work with me. The only way I had any time with my dad was to work alongside of him on one of his jobs or when he was fixing something around the house or the car.

Gary Wiens shares in his book *Come to Papa* that God told him He did not give us hard or impossible things to do to frustrate or discourage us. He wants us to ask for His help so that He can come alongside us and we can work together to accomplish these difficult tasks. Part of being a son is asking Father for His help and wisdom in everything that we do. I know that there have been many times in my life where I wished that I would have just taken a couple minutes to pray before I spent many frustrating hours and lots of money trying to fix something on my own!



See Yourself as a Son

Joseph Prince says, "Come as you are; leave as He is!" **As we focus our attention on Father and Jesus, He gives us our true identity as sons and daughters.** That is why God gave Joshua the instructions to meditate on the Word day and night until it transformed his image of who he really was and what God would do for him. **Josh. 1:8** We have to let go of the world's images of who we are, our past images of who people tried to tell us who we are, and the lies that the enemy tried to put in our heart about who we are. We have to see our self the way

Father sees us through the finished work of the cross. His righteousness and love for us will cause us to do the right thing and not sin. We can live a love-driven life that Father has planned for us to live.

Do not love the world or the things of 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. ... "
1 John 2:15-17

If these verses are true, then the opposite must be true also. **"If we love the Father, then the love of the world (the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life) will not be in us!"** In my own experience, when I started to receive the Father's Love, the old desires of the flesh began to fade away. I was no longer drawn toward them and they no longer had any power over me. It was easy to then just turn my back on the lusts and pride and walk away from them! PTL!

When I say "receive the Father's Love," what I'm referring to is being continuously loved by the Father 24/7. Trevor Galpin has a message on the Kingdom of God where he explains that the **Kingdom of God is anywhere where we are continuously experiencing Him loving us.** So it is easy to see how the Kingdom of God can be within us! When we pray "Thy Kingdom come," we are inviting His love to continuously be poured out in us and our world. WOW! Selah! Pause and think about that!

Are You Willing to be a Son or Daughter Who Needs a Father?

Walking in sonship is walking in love. When we are seated in "heavenly places" as sons and daughters, we can receive His love and give it away to the next person we meet; then He gives us some more love! God is love (**1 John 4:19**) and we can be filled with all the fullness of God! **Eph. 3:19** The earth is crying out for the "revealing of the sons of God" **Rom. 8:19** And Jesus said that they will know us by our love! **John 13:35** Submit yourself to Father and find someone to give His love away today! **Be His son or daughter!**



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A Blessing of Sonship

I bless you with the revelation of what it means to be a son or daughter to your heavenly Father. I bless you with experiencing more of His love being poured out to you continuously; that you walk in the Kingdom of God all of the time and carry His presence everywhere you go. You are filled to overflowing with the Love of the Father and freely give it away to everyone you meet. I bless you with divine encounters with people whose hearts are open to receive the love inside of you and their lives will forever be changed. I bless you to grow in the Spirit of His Son in your heart as you submit as a son to those who are in authority over you. I bless you with new friendships and rich fellowship with others who walk in the same anointing and spirit of sonship that you have. I bless you with a new-found freedom that comes from walking in sonship.

