

Firm Foundation – Christian Living

Our Father God – His View of Us

I. Digging the Foundation – Discovering the True Character of the Father, God.



Most of us have grown up with a distorted perception of how God views or perceives us. We may perceive God as some mean and cruel person who wants to punish us for every wrong thing we do, or we may see Him as the benevolent God, who is primarily a forgiving God. Or we may even perceive Him as a critical God, who wants absolute control of all things. In

this session, our goal will be to define how God truly views or perceives us as individuals.

The truth is, how you perceive God's actions and thoughts towards you will affect how you relate to Him. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we have a correct Biblical view of how God perceives us as individuals.

What is your present perception of how you believe God views you?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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The scripture below reveals the bottom line of how God truly thinks about each one of us as individuals.

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

When we begin to perceive God in the same way He perceives us, there is an agreement in the Spirit that brings a greater connection and intimacy with Him, and thus causes us to seek Him more wholeheartedly with assurance. The next two verses from Jeremiah 29 reveal this.

Our Father God – His View of Us

Jeremiah 29:12-13 *Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Francis Anfufo writes in his book “Perfectly Positioned, “For years, even decades, I had developed a pattern of expressing my love to God. Many times throughout the day, I would say, “God, I love you,” or “Thank you, Jesus, for loving and caring for my life.” I had considered this my First Love relationship with Jesus. In reality, it was Second Love. His love for me came first. The Bible says, “We love Him because He first loved us.” I had become so preoccupied trying to attain God’s approval that I had lost sight of His unwavering acceptance. Actually, I had never fully realized the extent of His feelings toward me. In time, I learned to lean less on the commitment I have made to Jesus and to bask more in the eternal Covenant He has made with me. John, the beloved disciple, again qualifies the essential sequence of love: “This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” I now discipline my spirit and soul to receive His unconditional love for me. I reject any thought that conflicts with the ultimate thought: that God is madly in love with me. No matter what I have done or what sin I have committed. There is nothing I could ever do to make God stop loving me. My repentance and return to God does not reactivate His love for me. It was never deactivated. Even before I was born, His thoughts toward me were pure joy and gladness. How can I fully love God if I don’t know He fully loves me? As Jack Frost teaches, “God loves you the way you are, and not the way you think you should be.” ¹

II. Forming and Reinforcement: Aligning Our Thoughts with God’s Thoughts about Us.



Psalms 139:17 *How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!*

God's counsel concerning us and our welfare is deep, such that it cannot be known. We cannot think how many mercies we have received from him. If it were not for his precious thoughts of love for us, our

¹ Francis Anfufo, *Perfectly Positioned*, p. 38-39

Our Father God – His View of Us

reason and our living forever would, through our sins, prove the occasion of our eternal misery. (*Matthew Henry Commentary*)

Isaiah 55:9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

In this section, our goal is to explore how God views us, even in our most sinful state. Again, our goal is to bring our thoughts of God into alignment with His thoughts towards us. This is the forming and the reinforcement of the foundation God is laying in each of our lives. How we go on to build our lives according to His purposes will be a direct result of the foundation that has been formed.

1. God Loves Us And Likes Us Even In Our Most Darkened State.

Song of Songs 1:5 *I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon*

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

This is probably one of the most important factors in our entire Christian experience, giving us confidence in God. When we fully grasp the significance that God loves us and likes us even in our darkened and sinful state, it gives us confidence and assurance to move forward in His grace and mercy, which enables us to walk as overcomers. As it says in 1 John, when our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart.


1 John 3:20-21 *For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.*

It is only when we truly understand God's grace and mercy that our hearts will not condemn us, and thus give us confidence before God.

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

Our Father God – His View of Us

God's infinite love is the groundwork of our salvation; in reference to us, that love assumes the form of mercy, and that mercy provides the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. And therefore, the apostle adds, *Ephesians 2:5: By grace you are saved—it is by God's free mercy in Christ that you are brought into this state of salvation.*—Adam Clarke's Commentary

<p>Many People believe God loves them, but are NOT convinced He always likes them.</p>	<p>Do you believe that God always likes you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Yes<input type="radio"/> No<input type="radio"/> I'm Not Sure<input type="radio"/> I Sure Hope So 
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The truth is, God has always liked you. But you're not alone! He likes everybody!

God likes us even though we do things we know are wrong.
God loves us, even though He doesn't approve of everything we do.



God the Father couldn't love us any more than He does. He doesn't love us **more** when we are **good**, nor does He love us **less** when we are **bad**.

There's nothing we could ever do to make God love us more.

Likewise, there's nothing we could ever do to make Him love us less. Like a good parent, God's love for us is unconditional, unwavering, and is Everlasting.

- All we have to do is receive God's love. "God is Love"

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- God doesn't like us based on our performance. He likes us based on who He created us to be.

Our Father God – His View of Us

We are created in His image and likeness. He desires a personal relationship with us, which He designed to last forever.

Is God troubled at times when He thinks about us?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Absolutely not!

He makes a distinction between our actions and who He created us to be. Like a good parent, He may not approve of all the things we do, but He always loves and likes us.

God thinks we are precious. . . incredibly valuable. Like a caring parent, He adores us.

- **How much does God love us?**

1 John 4:9 *"God showed how much he loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him."*



God the Father loves us as much as He loves His Son Jesus.

Jesus said, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." John 15:9

Ever see a parent smile at his/her son or daughter?

That's how God feels about us. God enjoys the very thoughts of us.

- **How important is it that we receive God's love?**

The main event in life is not how much we love God, but how much He loves us.



Our Father God – His View of Us

1 John 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

God wants us to be so confident in His love for us that we can stand boldly before Him on the Day of Judgment.

1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

- **We receive God's love by accepting what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross for our sins.**

2. God Will Never Impose His Will Upon Us.

God will never impose His will upon us. He gives us the right to choose whether we want His intervention or not. He loves us enough to let us go our own way and find out for ourselves the kind of fruit we are capable of producing.

- **We must yield to Him when He calls us, if we want His help and intervention in our lives.**

Jeremiah 17:9-10 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.*

Can you think of a time when you knew clearly what God wanted you to do, and you didn't do it? What was the outcome?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Revelation 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

Our Father God – His View of Us

- David understood this when we prayed for God to help Him after choosing to yield to His way.

Psalms 119:173 *Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts.*

- God is always **gentle** with us when He is trying to draw us into His presence, away from our self-destructive ways.

James 3:17 *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

III. Pouring The Foundation – Practical Applications.



It has become very clear from the Scriptures that God is very much for us.

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

If this is true, then we must embrace it and walk in the true reality of God for it to become the new reality of our lives.

As we meditate on who God truly is and what His heart's desire is for us, we will find ourselves walking in a state of renewal that brings us into the prosperity and blessings that God desires for us.

Joshua 1:8 *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, **but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.***

Psalms 1:1-3 *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.³**He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that***

Our Father God – His View of Us

brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

How has this session changed your perspective on how God views you?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Take the simple God Likes You Quiz to see how much God really does like you.

[Click Here to take the Quiz](#)