

Your First Father

Your first father sinned, And your mediators have transgressed against Me.
Isaiah 43:27

This is Father's Day 2014

I still miss my father who passed away over 30 years ago. He only completed the sixth grade. But my father was one of the wisest men I ever knew. Education does not equal wisdom.

Isaiah 43:27 has the phrase: "Your first father sinned...."

Your first father is Adam.

Miriam Webster's Electronic Dictionary defines "father."

1 fa·ther \'fä-thər\ **n** [ME *fader*, fr. OE *fæder*; akin to OHG *fater* father, L *pater*, Gk *patēr*]

1 **a** : a man who has begotten a child ; *also*: [sire](#) ³
 b cap(1): [god](#) 1 (2): the first person of the Trinity

So how did we come to observe Father's Day?

Father's Day

In the [United States](#), holiday (third Sunday in June) to honour fathers. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. She is said to have had the idea in 1909 while listening to a sermon on [Mother's Day](#), which at the time was becoming established as a holiday. Local religious leaders supported the idea, and the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, the month of the birthday of Dodd's father. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge gave his support to the observance, and in 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson officially proclaimed it a national holiday.

Observance on the third Sunday of June was decreed by law in 1972.

Although it was originally largely a religious holiday, Father's Day has been commercialized with the sending of greeting cards and the giving of gifts.

Some observe the custom of wearing a red rose to indicate that one's father is living or a white rose to indicate that he is deceased.

Other males—for example, grandfathers or uncles who have assumed parenting roles—are often also honoured on the day.

The following Scriptures outline my message today.

Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:6

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Isaiah 43:27

²⁷ Your first father sinned,

Romans 5:12

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned —

Romans 5:18

¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.

These few verses give us the story of man's fall from innocence condemnation and ruin in our representative Adam, and man's redemption in Christ Jesus.

We will look at where sin comes from and what God has done about it.

The purpose of Father's Day is to honor fathers.

To honor someone is to hold them in high regard and respect.

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

The fifth commandment of God is that children should honor their father and their mother and it is the only commandment with a blessing attached.

But the Scripture is also very clear that it is the duty of fathers to live in such a way that honor from the child is deserved.

In nearly every family there are instances of men who have fathered a child and have not had the integrity to marry the mother of his child. I know of a case where a woman has three children by three different men none of whom would marry her.

She may be justly criticized for bringing children into the world to be brought up in a nearly hopeless home situation and taking tax payer's money; but what about the irresponsible men who fathered those children?

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First consider the subject of God the Father.

There is God who is The Father.

The First Person of the Trinity is God the Father.

However, the Trinity is a very difficult concept for our human minds to grasp. In fact, you will never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity. And anyone who tries to make it "simple" has not yet begun to understand its complexity. That is not to say that we should not try to understand what the Bible teaches about the triune nature of God.

God is.

God is one.

God is revealed: in creation, in scripture, and in Jesus Christ.

London Baptist Confession of 1689 {refer to #3.}

3. _____ In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, the Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided: the Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore but one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties and personal relations; which doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence on him.

([1 John 5:7](#); [Matthew 28:19](#); [2 Corinthians 13:14](#); [Exodus 3:14](#); [John 14:11](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [John 1:14,18](#); [John 15:26](#); [Galatians 4:6](#))

In the economy of the triune Godhead the First Person is God the Father.

God the Father is no more God than God the Son or God the Holy Spirit, yet there is a divine order in the Godhead.

This divine order is the basis for the family: children obey your parents, wife respect your husband, husband love your wife as Christ loved the Church, all under submission to Christ.

The Son of God who is the Lord Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity and He honored God the Father.

John 5:1-23

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep *Gate* a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³ In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴ For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

¹¹ He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

¹² Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" ¹³ But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place.

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

¹⁵ The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶ For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. ¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Jesus is saying that He and the Father are of the same essence; two distinct Persons but of the same essence; i.e. equal one to the other.

Verse 18 clearly shows that the Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to be God!

Thus we have the ultimate honoring of God Our Father when we honor the God the Son.

A fine point of theology:

Only Jesus could rightly call God the Father "**My** Father." That was what upset the Pharisees because Jesus was claiming to be of the same essence as God the Father.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Our Father..." but no man can rightly call God "My Father" except the Son of God.

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Before we move to Adam I want to tell you of two instances that came my way a few years ago as examples of how some people do not honor the Son.

The first instance was an email asking people to pray to God for America. That is fine and I personally pray for this nation to repent and turn to God.

But the problem that I had with the email was that it misapplied an Old Testament promise to King Solomon and Israel to America.

The email stated: "I heard a preacher on TV tonight who said if we pray for our nation things will turn around."

My comment was: **"No preacher can make such a guarantee."**

Israel's national sin was idolatry.

America's great sin is abortion, which is worship of self, and is idolatry.

The Scripture quoted was:

2 Chronicles 7:14 in God's Word, He states,
"If my people who are called by my name
will humble themselves and pray
and seek my face and turn from their
wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven
and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

This is a common mistake made by many preachers, viz. to apply this specific promise to Israel to America or any other country.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is not a universal promise by God to any and every nation. Certainly, in principle, a people who repent and call on God through the Lord Jesus Christ may have hope that God will hear them but not as a guarantee as stated above.

And the point of my complaint is that nowhere does the email refer to Jesus Christ; only to a “generic” God who may be anything one might imagine. The author of that email does not honor the Son!

The second instance was an invocation given at the start of a meeting that I was attending and the prayer of invocation was well and good in its petitions and praise for the healing of some individuals and “Father God” was called on in every other sentence. But there was never a mention of Jesus Christ and so that prayer did not honor the Son!

Some may accuse me of having a “Shibboleth” but I insist that it is the honor of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that is the issue.

A “Shibboleth” was a password and the term now means any test given for authenticity.

Judges 12:1-7

Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!"

² And Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.

³ So when I saw that you would not deliver *me*, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?" ⁴ Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You Gileadites *are* fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites *and* among the Manassites." ⁵ The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites *arrived*. And when *any* Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "*Are* you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No," ⁶ then they would say to him, "Then say, 'Shibboleth!'" And he would say, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce *it* right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at that time forty-two thousand Ephraimites.

⁷ And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried among the cities of Gilead.

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²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. {John 5}

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Now I want to turn to “Your First Father,” Adam.

Today, on Father’s Day we will stress the part of Adam as “Your first father.”

Isaiah 43:27

Your first father sinned,
And your mediators have transgressed against Me.

Some respected commentators say that Isaiah is referring to Abraham here because the Jews never referred to Adam as “father” as they called Abraham, “Father Abraham.” But other equally respected commentators say that Isaiah is referring to Adam. Adam is your first father who sinned. It is the one sin of the one man, Adam, that brought sin into the human race.

Adam was a representative man; i.e. Adam in his state of innocence represented mankind in the Garden of Eden.

Adam was a significant man created by God; Eve was made from a rib taken from Adam’s side. Scoffers mock at that straightforward answer to man’s origin and choose to believe that humans “evolved” over millions of years from an accidental spontaneous combination of matter.

Did you ever ponder the total implausibility of how two distinct sexes, male and female could “evolve?” If evolution is the answer to origins and by definition evolution is time and chance with no design or Designer, why is there symmetry in creatures? Why don’t you have five ears or an arm growing out of your backside? Just wondering?

My worldview and confidence is in the philosophy of origins that were held by Jesus Himself and the Apostle Paul.

When “Your first father,” Adam, disobeyed God’s singular command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil Adam acted on behalf of, i.e. Adam represented the entire human race.

There is only one other Representative Man who is the Man Christ Jesus.

It is not inconsequential that the Bible refers to Jesus as the “Last Adam.”

1 Corinthians 15:45

And so it is written, "*The first man Adam became a living being.*"* The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

Adam represented a group of people and Jesus the Christ represented a group of people.

Adam's group of people is everyone born of woman by natural procreation.

Christ's group of people are those given to Him by the Father before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:3-6

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

God has only dealt with two representative men in history: Adam and Christ. Right now you are considered by God as either being in Adam or in Christ. There is no position of neutrality: Adam or Christ; condemned or justified.

You were born "in Adam" and if you are still "in Adam" you are right now under condemnation and the settled indignation of the wrath of God.

John 3:35-36

³⁵ The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

If you are a believer by God's grace through faith alone in the Gospel and living a life that testifies to that belief you are no longer under condemnation.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

There it is: the only two states of being for you and for me;
Condemned and under the abiding wrath of God or not condemned and justified!

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?"

¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,
You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;

On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

Genesis 3:15 is the first prophecy of grace in the Bible and the rest of the Bible is an explanation of that prophecy's fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Now you theologians will have discerned that the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not named in the Bible. It may have been an apple but we simply do not know. My guess is that it was the fruit of the fig tree because Adam and Eve "sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." Genesis 3:7

But we are not told what the fruit was!

Another point that a careful hearer will note is that Adam was not deceived!

1 Timothy 2:14

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

What is the significance of "Your first father?"

The doctrine is called "Representation."

That means that in the sight of a holy and just God we are represented in either Adam or Christ.

Earlier I said: "God has only dealt with two men in history as representative men: Adam and Christ. Right now you are either considered by God as being in Adam or in Christ."

Romans 5:12-21

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned — ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶ And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this Father's Day 2014 I urge you all, but especially you who are fathers to question who is your representative Man? Are you still in your lost condition in Adam or are you in a state of repentance and trust in Jesus Christ alone for your righteousness?

Are you like Adam and Eve resenting the fact that God is your Creator and desiring to be independent of God? Have you been deceived by Satan's grandest lie that you are the product of time and chance and therefore you have no God to fear? Is there no fear of God; are you a fool who says there is no God?

Or, are you submissive to the authority of Jesus Christ and glad to have it so?

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We will close this message with a funeral.

I thought it was Brother Walter who I first heard comment on “Justification by Death.” But Walter said it may have been one of the Jim’s who said it. Well, this Jim did not coin the phrase so it must have been the other Jim; Bro Gables?

“Justification by Death” means that nearly every preacher tries to find a way to get the departed into heaven, no matter what the life of the departed testified to.

The worst time I ever had after preaching a funeral was because I simply told the truth that we could not know the eternal state of the deceased. The deceased man’s father was quite upset with me because I did not preach his departed son into glory.

One time I did read about a preacher that was called upon to preach the funeral of the town drunk. The town drunk’s name escapes me, but the preacher stood up and all he said was, “Well, everybody knew ole John.” He sat down and that was it.

So my fellow fathers that is my message for this “Father’s Day.”

We have considered how to honor our heavenly Father by honoring His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And we have thought about what our funeral will be like.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Are you “in Adam” or “in Christ?”

Amen!

June 15, 2014