

Subject: *Settled by Our Father*

Scripture: *John 17:1-12*

We have an earthly father and we have a heavenly Father. Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” Our Father is the Father of lights (Jas. 1:17), the Father of mercies (2 Cor. 1:3), the Father of spirits (Heb. 12:9), and the Father of glory (Eph. 1:17), and He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is this relationship between Jesus and the Heavenly Father that I want us to consider.

When we think of God as our Father it reminds us of the great respect we owe Him and the tender care He has for us. The term Father is a term of endearment and a term of respect. It is a word that implies authority and confidence. On the very night when He would be betrayed and arrested, Jesus was comforted by the Father’s love and support. Jesus knew that some things were already settled by His Father and this gave Him great assurance.

1. Christ’s special relationship with the Father (vs. 1)

Jesus is praying to God the Father (vs. 1). He is the Holy Father (vs. 11) and the righteous Father (vs. 25). Jesus spoke of God as His Father, and the Jews charged Him with blasphemy because that made Him equal with God. For example: ***John 5:17-18***¹⁷ *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.* ¹⁸ *Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.* Jesus referred to the temple as “my Father’s house” and spoke of heaven in the same way, “in my Father’s house are many mansions.” When Jesus spoke of God as His Father it was a unique relationship. He was God’s only begotten Son, His unique, one-of-a-kind Son, ***John 3:16*** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* The Father loved Him before the foundation of the world (vs. 24).

2. Christ’s supreme authority from the Father (vs. 2-3)

The Father gave Jesus power (authority) over all people. Jesus reminds the disciples of this when He gave the great commission. ***Matthew 28:18*** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* He has authority to forgive sins, authority to heal the sick and raise the dead, authority to cast out demons, and authority to judge all men. ***John 5:22*** *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.* In John 17 Jesus spoke of His authority to give eternal life to all that the Father had given to Him. Jesus is the Father’s love gift to us and we are the Father’s love gift to Jesus. Eternal life is to know the Father and the Son in a personal relationship.

He is the only true God. ***Isaiah 45:22*** *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.* The Father has settled that He is the only true God and eternal life (salvation) is found only in Him. ***1 John 5:11-12***¹¹ *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* ¹² *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.* ***John 14:6*** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

3. Christ’s special assignment from the Father (vs. 4)

Jesus came to earth for one purpose: to do the Father’s work. Many times in this gospel, Jesus said the Father sent Him. He was sent on a mission. He said near the end of His earthly

life, “As the Father sent me, even so I send you.” **John 6:38** *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* Even when Jesus was 12 years old He understood what He was here for. His parents looked everywhere for Him and found Him in the temple taking with the religious leaders. Jesus said, “Didn’t you know that I must be about my Father’s business.” And that’s what He did for 33 years. He lived to please His Father. What an example He set for us to honor our earthly father and our Heavenly Father.

4. Christ’s special glory with the Father (vs. 5)

God will share His glory with no one else. Jesus shares the glory of the Father because He is equal with the Father and eternal like the Father. **John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.* **Colossians 1:15** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.* **Hebrews 1:3** *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

5. Christ’s special revelation of the Father (vs. 6-8)

Jesus manifested the Father’s name (revealed the Father’s attributes). **John 14:7-9**⁷ *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.* Everywhere He went, everything He did and said revealed the Father’s holiness, wisdom, love, patience, power, compassion, mercy, and grace. He manifested the Father’s name and spoke the Father’s words.

6. Christ’s special request to the Father (vs. 9-12)

Jesus prayed for His own people who believed on Him. Although He loved the world, He did not pray for the world. He prayed for those who the Father had given to Him. We belong to the Father and the Son. Jesus was concerned about His own people since He was leaving the world soon. While He was on earth He protected them and kept them safe. None of them was lost except Judas and he was never saved in the first place. He was the son of perdition (destruction). Destruction refers to the eternal destiny of Judas and all unbelievers. On the other hand, the eternal security of all believers in heaven is settled by our Father. It is settled because Jesus always prayed for God’s will to be done. If Jesus asked the Father for something, it was as good as done.

Jesus was God’s Son by virtue of His nature. He was God’s Son, is God’s Son, and forever will be God’s Son forever. With us it is different. We become God’s children and He becomes our Father when we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior by repentance and faith. **John 1:11-13**¹¹ *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*¹² *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*¹³ *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*