

God Is Our Perfect Father

Lesson 2: God's Personality

Vocabulary:

personality	(un)reliable	to rejoice	justice/just
selfish	(ir)responsible	to persevere	fair
ambitious	envy	loyal	prison
lazy	to boast	consistent	blind
anxious	to keep record	to rescue	widow
(dis)honest	to delight in	to depend on	orphan

Discussion:

When we try to imagine God's **personality**, our image of Him may seem unclear. There are many words to describe someone's personality. A person might be caring or **selfish**, **ambitious** or **lazy**, happy or angry, calm or **anxious**, **honest** or **dishonest**, kind or mean, **reliable** or **unreliable**, loud or quiet, friendly or rude, patient or impatient, **responsible** or **irresponsible**. We usually describe each other's personalities by how we act, by what we do, by how we feel, and by what we say.

If you know or knew your father, or if someone in your life played the role of your father, then describe his personality.

What is one thing your father does that makes you laugh or feel happy?

If you could, what is one thing that you would change about your father?

We can begin understanding God's personality if we go back to I John 4:16 that says, "God is love" (NIV).

Take a minute to think about the perfect, loving father. How would he act toward you? What would he do? What would he say? How would he feel about you?

The Bible teaches us that God is a loving Father. Each one of us may describe love in a different way. The Bible defines love in I Corinthians 13:4-7. Read the passage out loud:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not **envy**, it does not **boast**, it is not proud*. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking [selfish], it is not easily angered, it **keeps** no **record** of wrongs. Love does not **delight in** evil but **rejoices** in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always **perseveres**.

*Proud here means thinking we are better than other people.

Read the passage again. Every time you see the word *love*, say *God*. When you see the word *it* say, *He*. Now try reading the passage this way:

God, my Father is patient with me. He is kind to me. He does not envy me, and He does not boast about Himself to me. My Father is not arrogant and does not look down on me. He is never rude to me. He is not selfish in His love for me. God, my Father is not easily angered with me. He keeps no record of the things I do wrong. My Father does not delight when I do evil but rejoices when I live

and speak the truth. My Father always protects me, He always trusts me, He always has hope for me, and He always perseveres with me. My Father loves me!

What did you learn and feel from reading I Corinthians 13:4-7 in this way?

Are there any parts of God's personality that are hard for you to believe? Explain.

Before we can follow God or even trust Him, we have to understand who He is. Read these passages about God to learn more about His personality:

Psalm 86:15 - My Lord, you are a kind and merciful God. You are patient, loyal, and full of love. (ERV)

What does the word *merciful* mean? What are examples of mercy?

What does the word *loyal* mean? What are examples of loyalty?

The Greek word for *loyalty* is *emeth*, which means reliable, consistent, faithful, and truthful. Is this how you would describe God? Why or why not?

Knowing that this is who God is, how does that make you feel? How does this change your understanding of God?

Psalm 37:39-40 – The Lord saves those who are good. When they have troubles [problems], He is their strength. The Lord helps good people and rescues them. They depend on Him, so He rescues them from the wicked [evil people].

In verse 39, the word *strength* in the Greek also means a place of safety. Have you ever had a person or place of safety and peace from trouble? If yes, describe. If not, what would you want that person or place to be like?

When we have trouble, God wants to be that place of safety and peace for us. How can God be that place for you? What does this mean? What would or does that look like?

God wants to rescue us from evil people or bad situations that can hurt us or keep us from being close to Him. What does that say about God's personality?

Knowing that this is who God is, how does that make you feel? How does this change your understanding of God?

Psalm 33:4-5 – He loves goodness and justice. The Lord's faithful love fills the earth.

The word *faithful* in the Greek also means firm, loyal, unchanging, and consistent. These words describe God's decisions and actions. What can we learn about God is we know that he makes decisions in this way? How does this make you feel?

God loves *goodness*. What are some examples of goodness? Why do you think God loves goodness?

What are examples of *justice*? What does it mean to be *just*? Why do you think God loves *justice*?

Knowing that God is faithful, good, and just, how does that make you feel? Is that different from or similar to how you have imagined God?

Psalm 103:6 – The Lord does what is fair. He brings justice to all who have been hurt by others.

How does God feel when we are hurt by others?

When we have been hurt by others, God promises to bring us justice – in this life or in heaven. What does this mean? How does this promise affect you personally?

Psalm 146:7-9 – He does what is right for those who have been hurt. He gives food to the hungry. The Lord frees people locked up in prison. The Lord makes the blind see again. The Lord helps those who are in trouble. The Lord loves those who do right. The Lord protects strangers in our country. He cares for widows and orphans, but he destroys the wicked.

From this passage, what are some ways that you see God has helped you in your life?

In what ways do you want God to help you now? Be specific.

How does it make you feel that God wants to help you in your life?

This Week:

Write in your journal:

1. Make a list or web of your favorite parts of God's personality. If you enjoy drawing, decorate the page with how His personality makes you feel.
2. Write a letter to God about how you see or feel His love in your life and what you are thankful for. If you enjoy drawing, decorate your letter in a way that shows how His love makes you feel.
3. Online, find the song *Good, Good Father* and its lyrics by Chris Tomlin. Close your eyes or look outside and listen to the song.
4. Take some time to praise your Father for His personality! Tell Him how you feel about Him.