

## EVERLASTING FATHER

### INTRODUCTION

**Isaiah 9:6 (2016 ESV) — 6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The last two weeks we have talked about Jesus as *Wonderful Counselor* and *Mighty God*. Today we come to the phase *Everlasting Father*. Jesus is everlasting, eternal; He is also Father – not God the Father, but still Father. Let’s make sure that we understand the eternity and fatherhood of Christ.

### ETERNITY AND TIME

Time is not eternal; time is part of creation. There is a physical reality to time; the basic measurements of time were established on the fourth day of creation. Genesis 1:14 says,

**Genesis 1:14 (2016 ESV) — 14** And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for **seasons**, and for **days** and **years** ...”

A year is one rotation of the earth around the sun. A month is one rotation of the moon around the earth. A day is one rotation of the earth on its axis.

We experience time as a three-fold experience. The **past** is recorded as a memory; my earliest memory is of a huge hole being dug in our backyard for a swimming pool – I was three. The **present** is experienced as it happens. At this moment – 11:52 am on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – I am typing these words. That experience, of course, immediately becomes a memory. The **future** is what we anticipate, or imagine, or hope, will happen in a minute or week or a year. Time for you and me is what **was**, what **is**, and what **is to come**.

But God exists apart from time, in what we call eternity. His own name describes His constantly existence: Yahweh, I AM. He has no memory as we think about memory. He does not anticipate as we do. He is Yahweh, I AM, the God Who Is. He sees all things in creation – and all time in creation – at once.

In Revelation 1:8 we read,

**Revelation 1:8 (2016 ESV) — 8** “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Those words *alpha*, *omega*, *was*, and *is to come* are spoken from our perspective. Within God’s existence, He simply Is. He does not live within time. He is not hindered by time. His memory never grows faint, because every moment of time is constantly before Him. His knowledge of the future does not become more imprecise the farther into the future He looks; again, every moment of time is constantly before Him.

So Romans 8:29-30 says,

**Romans 8:29–30 (2016 ESV) — 29** For those whom God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.

In verse 29 *foreknew* is a verb, not a noun. We are not told that God has foreknowledge of coming events, but that in eternity past He already knew His children as His children, even though creation had not yet taken place.

*Those whom He foreknew* in that way *He predestined to be exactly like His Son*, who had not yet been incarnated. This is not a prediction; once God decreed that His Son would take on flesh, that reality was right before Him.

*Those whom He predestined He also called.* We experience that call at a moment of history, but from the moment of God's decree it was happening right before Him.

*Those whom He called He also justified.* Again, the declaration that we are righteous in Christ took place, for us, at a moment in history, but the moment God decreed it to be so, He saw it as a present event.

*And those whom He justified He also glorified.* As before, the moment God decreed our glorification, He saw it as real and actual before Him, even though no one has yet been glorified. The historical event of glorification requires our resurrection, and only Jesus has been resurrected. We will all be raised at the same time, in the twinkling of an eye; for us

it is future. For God it is already real. Our creator can look at the day of your birth, and the day of your salvation, and the day of your home going, and the day of your resurrection, and the entirety of His eternal fellowship with you, right now. For Him, none of it is past memory or future anticipation; all of it is actual for Him.

## JESUS IN ETERNITY AND TIME

Jesus is *Everlasting* Father.

Now it gets really interesting. God, who exists apart from time, created all things to exist within time. He is so mighty that He can interact with us in the limits of our time without being limited Himself. And what's more, He Himself - God the Son - took on human flesh, and was incarnated as Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was born and grew and lived within time and the confines of time. Jesus never stopped being God, and we see hints of His eternal existence at times. He saw Nathanael sitting under the fig tree in John 1. He was waiting on the shore of the Sea of Galilee at just the right place when the disciples came back from fishing in John 21. The *man* Christ Jesus could not have known these things. *God the Son* knew all those things and more. John even says,

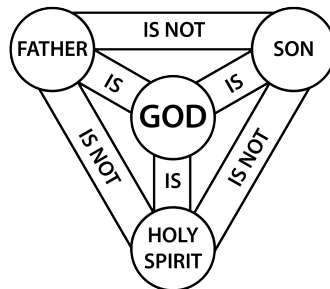
**John 2:23–25 (2016 ESV) — 23** Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that He was doing. **24** But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because He **knew all people** **25** and needed no one to bear witness about man, for **He Himself knew what was in man.**

Jesus did not cease being God when He was incarnated. The Trinity didn't change into the Duality while Jesus was on earth; the Trinity remained whole and unchanged. Likewise, Jesus didn't cease being man with His resurrection; He was raised as a glorified man, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (First Corinthians 15:20). Jesus possesses two natures in His one Person. In His deity, God the Son has existed with the Father and Holy Spirit for all eternity. In His humanity, Jesus Christ was born as a created being, and will exist for all eternity.

## JESUS IS FATHER

Jesus is Everlasting *Father*.

Let's just be clear, Jesus is not being confused here with God the Father. There is one essence of God, which exists eternally in Three Persons. Each member of the Godhead are fully God. They are co-equal and co-eternal, but they are not indistinguishable.



So in what sense is Jesus a Father?

**A father is a parent.** Fathers give life to their children; Jesus gives life to His children:

**John 10:28 (2016 ESV) — 28 I give them eternal life**, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Hebrews 2:13 quotes Isaiah 8:18, applying it to Jesus:

**Hebrews 2:13 (2016 ESV) — 13** And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, **“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”**

In John 15 Jesus says that He is constantly giving us life:

**John 15:5 (2016 ESV) — 5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides** in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Through faith in Jesus we have a constant, vital connection to His life, and His life is constantly being given to and through us.

**A father can be someone who is the originator of something.** Genesis 4:20-21 speaks of two brothers,

**Genesis 4:20–21 (2016 ESV) — 20** Adah bore Jabal; **he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21** His brother’s name was Jubal; **he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.**

What did Jesus originate? An entirely new spiritual existence. He is the Father of a new kind of person,

**Ephesians 2:19–22 (2016 ESV) — 19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints** and **members of the household of God**, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

**A father provides for His own.** Jesus says to the woman at the well,

**John 4:10 (2016 ESV) — 10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ **you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.**”

He said to His disciples,

**John 14:13–14 (2016 ESV) — 13** **Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** **If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.**

He called to His disciples after His resurrection,

**John 21:12 (2016 ESV) — 12** Jesus said to them, “**Come and have breakfast.**” Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” They knew it was the Lord.

**Fathers are leaders.** We see this in Second Kings 2:12 when Elijah was being taken

up into heaven:

**2 Kings 2:12 (2016 ESV) — 12** And Elisha saw it and he cried, “**My father, my father!** The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Acknowledging that Jesus is Everlasting Father doesn't diminish His Lordship and authority; it emphasizes it. He leads us firmly, like a good father; and gently, like a good father; without anger or frustration, like a good father; with patience and a clear aim, like a good father.

**Fathers are defenders.** The world is full of dangers; fathers are commissioned by God to protect their family, and especially their children. Remember, what is true of God in Scripture is true of Jesus. Psalm 3:3 says,

**Psalm 3:3 (2016 ESV) — 3** But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

When Paul faced judgment before Nero,

**2 Timothy 4:16–17 (2016 ESV) — 16** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! **17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me**, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

Psalm 144:1 says that Jesus teaches us,



**Psalm 144:1–2 (2016 ESV) — 1** Blessed be the Lord, my rock, **who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;** **2** He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and He in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

The Lord is growing us and maturing us into godly men and women, heavenly warriors. Even so, He doesn't grow us in order to kick us out on our own at some point; He is eternally our steadfast love, fortress, stronghold, deliver, shield, and the one in whom we take refuge. Neither does He expect us to grow until we don't need Him anymore; it is HE who subdues people under human kings, it is HE who brings knowledge to those taught by human teachers, it is HE who brings power and energy to our work in the Kingdom.

## BRINGING IT HOME

Let's bring this home today. These titles all begin with the Lord Jesus Christ; He is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

But He is not these things just for their own sakes; He is these things for His people, for those who trust in Him. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ, then He is your Everlasting Father.

**Jesus has *and* continues to give life to you.** The best analogy is the one Jesus gives: He

is the vine, we are the branches; He is constantly giving us life, feeding us, renewing us, healing us, growing us, for His glory and our good.

**He has made you into something new**, something that did not exist until the inauguration of the New Covenant with His death and resurrection and the giving of the Spirit; you are a new creature in Him. The old things have passed away; they are gone. New things have come.

**He provides for you**, not just in the basic needs of life, but in the immeasurable needs of spiritual life and existence. He provides strength, mercy, righteousness, encouragement, gifting. Contrary to what one best-selling Christian book says, our lives should not be “purpose driven,” but Christ-driven. But in addition to everything else, Jesus provides purpose as well.

**He leads you as His child and His disciple.** He directs you through Scripture and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. He leads gently, not with a heavy hand. The result is a journey that seems to take a long, long time. “Why is this taking so long?” we often ask, not realizing that the only way to speed up the process is to drive us harder, beyond our ability to bear.

**And Jesus defends us.** He is our shield, our glory, the lifter of our head, our refuge, our fortress. How do we lift the shield, run into the fortress? We immerse ourselves in His Word, submit ourselves to His truth, and surrender ourselves to His Spirit. We turn our hearts and minds away from the cares of the world, and listen for our Lord’s Fatherly voice.

Please be encouraged this week. I faced some troubling moments, and perhaps you did as well. But no believer is abandoned. No Christian is orphaned. If you are feeling far from God, He's not the one who moved. Look to Jesus, the Everlasting Father!