

THE SPIRITUAL FATHER/SON RELATIONSHIP

Philippians 2:19-24

¹⁹But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
²⁰For I have no man likeminded (*iso-psuchos*), who will naturally care for your state.
²¹For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.
²²But ye know the proof (*dokimos* – tested and proved) of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. (apprenticeship)
²³Him therefore I hope to send (*apostelo* - apostle) presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.
²⁴But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

“AS A SON WITH THE FATHER” – Apprenticeship of Bar-mitzvah
“Joint Heir”

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.²⁰For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.
¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

INTRODUCTION

This relationship goes beyond employer and employee, leader and follower, teacher and learner. It might include some or all of these, but it is more.

PROPOSITION

We will consider the Roots, Rewards, and Responsibilities of the Spiritual Father/Son relationship.

I. THE ROOTS ARE RELATIONAL, NOT POSITIONAL.

- The Basis of the Relationship

A. The Son chooses the Father; the Father does not initiate the choice.

1. The Father must not “recruit” sons.
 - This is not a team (only)—to perform (coach).
 - It is not a class—to learn (teacher).
 - It is not an employee—to do a job (employer).
 - This is much deeper than either of these!!
2. This is not birth; it is adoption.
 - The son asks, “Will you adopt me?”
3. Beware of a so-called “father” who recruits sons!

B. The Father chooses to be chosen.

1. He is open to the potential son.
2. He may even express that openness, but the initial choice must be made freely by the “Son.”
3. The Father must respond. The response clinches, closes, and effects it!!

C. Ultimately, it is a mutual “Cornelius Connection.”

1. God works on both ends, and they both respond to Him and to each other.
2. Acts 10:1-33

II. THE REWARDS ARE RECIPROCAL, NOT PREFERENTIAL/ PRESSURED.

- “Win” “Win” “Win” – 3-fold cord (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- These are the benefits of the relationship.

A. Benefits to the Son

- These are Life-Defining.

1. Identification –

Matthew 3:17

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Luke 9:35

And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son; hear Him.

2. Information – Not just tips and techniques only, but principles and core values by observation and not memorization; internalized, not cognized.
 - (More “caught” than “taught.”)
3. Inspiration – model • example • encourager
 - “Put up . . . not put down”
 - “Draw forward . . . not drag backward”
 - “Your greatest fan and cheerleader!”
4. Impartation – Mantle • Spirit • Essence (“DNA”)
 - Moses – “God put Moses’ spirit on the Elders.”
 - Elijah – Elisha . . . “hard” = *pala* = means central, core (not difficult)

II Kings 2:10

“Ask what I shall do for you. . . “

“DOUBLE PORTION, SON”

5. Inheritance – Legacy: both spiritual and ministerial
6. Intimacy – transparency • vulnerability • (2-Way) • no secrets
 - Total Trust
 - Not necessarily proximity
 - Not hours or minutes but “being there” for you!

B. Benefits to the Father

- These are Life-Extending.
 1. Assistance
 - “Fulfill the Father’s vision to receive your own.”
 - “Elisha washed the hands of Elijah.”
 - *Sharath* – personal servant/aide
 - Joseph = (Potiphar) Pharaoh
 - Joshua = Moses
 2. Perspective
 - Freshness
 - Relevance!!
 - Vision Transition!!

3. Continuity

- A kind of immortality of influence
- Broadness and balance of influence
- Trans-generational – “Larger than life”

It’s not what you learn . . . do . . . that matters.

It’s only what you LEAVE THAT MATTERS!!!

The Roots are Relational – not Positional . . .

The Rewards are Reciprocal – not Preferential . . .

III. THE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE REASONABLE, NOT PRESSURED.

- Roots = Basis – Relational
- Rewards = Benefits – Reciprocal

A. Responsibilities: These are the bonds of the relationship.

Four R’s

1. Recognize

- a. Recognize the Son’s anointing.
- b. Cause/assist the Son to better understand his anointing, hence his worth, focus.
- c. Acknowledge the Son’s anointing • calling • excellence to others.

2. Raise Up
 - a. Into Biblical Understanding (wisdom)
 1. Word
 2. Self
 3. Relationship
 - b. Into Practical Effectiveness
 1. Nature of ministry
 2. Techniques of ministry
 3. Tools of ministry
 - c. Into Personal Excellence
 1. Integrity
 2. Sincerity
 3. Propriety
3. Release
 - a. Endorse him – “This is my beloved Son”
 - b. Announce him – “...hear him.”
 - c. Place him – “I am sending you unto Timothy.”
 - Titus – Cyprus
 - Epaphroditus – Colossae
 - Silas – Corinth

4. Resource
 - a. Relationally
 1. Self – “be there” – strength/bulwark
 2. Siblings – “bridge” for growth
 3. Superiors – “bridge” for benefit
 - b. Revelationally
 1. Hear from God through you!
 2. In person and/or via media.
 3. “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against God.” (Psalm 119:11)
 - c. Resourcefully
 1. Wisdom • connection • discipline
 2. Professional — legal
 3. Business

A Jewish father always sets up his son in business.
 - d. Reparationally
 1. Repair when fallen • broken • burnt out
 2. Moral counsel
 3. Family counsel

B. Responsibilities of the Son

Four R's applied differently.

1. Recognize

- a. Respect him for who he is!
- b. Psalm 91:14 – “Because he has set his love upon me...”
Love is an act of will, not an emotion.

2. Raise Up

- a. Honor him at every opportunity!
- b. “Put him up; never put him down.”
- c. “Loyalty does not qualify one for anything. But lack of loyalty disqualifies one for everything.”

3. Release

- a. “Speak into my life and ministry.” - Authority
 - “*pater* (father) vs. patriarchs (power)”
- b. To watch . . . guard . . . mentor – Fatherhood
 - Don't be a “high-maintenance son.”

4. Resource

- a. Tithes and offerings
 - (Always) not personal • not positional • not institutional
 - not coerced
- b. Embarrass him with blessings. (Do not meet his needs.)
- c. Serve his ministry • personal • family needs in every way possible.

CONCLUSION

The Spiritual Father/Son Relationship is unlike any other.

- Its Roots are Relational — not Positional.
- Its Rewards are Reciprocal — not Preferential
- Its Responsibilities are Reasonable — not Pressured.