

BLESSINGS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN (1 John 3:1-3)

I. Forgiveness.

- A. All families need to be forgiving.
 - 1. Have you ever stopped to think what it would have been like growing up if your father was not forgiving?
 - 2. Every time you did something wrong your father would hold it against you and not let you forget it.
 - 3. That would be a horrible family life in which to grow up.
- B. Children constantly make mistakes and good fathers are willing and want to forgive their children when mistakes are made.
- C. The Father we have as Christians is a good Father.
 - 1. James 1:17.
 - 2. Matthew 7:11.
- D. God is good to forgive us our sins.
 - 1. Psalm 86:5.
 - 2. Daniel 9:9.
 - 3. 1 John 1:9.
 - 4. Psalm 103: 8-14.
- E. Our brothers and sisters are supposed to be good to forgive.
 - 1. Matthew 6:14-15.
 - 2. We know that in order to get forgiveness for ourselves, we must forgive others.
- F. There is no greater blessing than to know that one's sins are forgiven, by both our Father and our brethren.

II. Family.

- A. One cannot be a father without having a family, and God is called Father, so He must have a family.
 - 1. That family is made up of His heirs (Romans 8:17).
 - 2. His heirs are the ones who are led by the Holy Spirit through God's word (Romans 8:14).
- B. The church is the family of God.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 3:15.
 - 2. Hebrews 3:6.
- C. This family receives many things from God the Father.
 - 1. Salvation (Acts 2:47).
 - 2. Provision (Acts 20:28).
 - 3. Direction (Ephesians 1:22).
 - 4. Affection (Ephesians 5:29).
- D. The brothers and sisters in this family provide for one another.
 - 1. Love (1 Thessalonians 4:9).
 - 2. Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
 - 3. Exhortation (Hebrews 3:13).
 - 4. Companionship (Romans 12:15) and many other things that only children of God can do for one another.

III. A Father.

- A. Good fathers are a great blessing.
 - 1. So many children have been deprived of a father and our society suffers because of it.
 - 2. Boys need a father to show them how to be a man.
 - 3. Girls need a father to show them how to be properly treated by boys.
 - 4. Good fathers provide many essential things for their children.
- B. As Christians, we have the greatest Father one could have.
- C. It is a blessing in many ways to be able to call God our Father.
 - 1. We have the blessing of being able to talk to our Father (Matthew 6:9).
 - 2. The one to whom we talk knows all our needs (Matthew 6:32).
- D. A great thing about God is that He desires to be a Father to every person.
- E. When God is your Father, you will have a role model:
 - 1. Of love and caring (1 Peter 5:7).
 - 2. Of mercy (Luke 6:36).
 - 3. Of protection (John 10:29).
- F. God disciplines appropriately because He loves us (Hebrews 12:6-7).
- G. Our earthly fathers, as great as they may be or have been, fail from time to time.
- H. God, our heavenly Father, never fails and always does that which is right for His children.

IV. Felicity.

- A. Good fathers want their children to be happy.
 - 1. They will go out of their way for their children's happiness.
 - 2. They will sacrifice to do so.
- B. As a Christian, God supplies all that we need for a happy life.
 - 1. John 15:10-11.
 - 2. John 10:10.
- C. God has given us a kingdom with a great King.
 - 1. Luke 12:32.
 - 2. Revelation 19:16.
- D. God provides His children with the opportunity to be raised from the dead (John 5:21).
- E. God provides us His children a place in which to live for all eternity (John 14:2).
- F. All of these things God provides for us leads to our happiness.

From a sermon by Kevin Cauley