

# OUR UNION WITH GOD OUR FATHER

## NO MORE DISTANCE, BUT THE DISCOVERY OF DIVINE INTIMACY

### *Eph 2:13 &16*

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ... and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross,...*

### **There is no more distance between us and God.**

This truth, deeply embedded in Scripture reshapes not only our understanding of the Divine but also the way we worship, pray, and live. The New Testament consistently unveils the truth of our oneness with God through Christ. It emphasizes that the incarnation death and resurrection of Christ, are not distant theological events but radical revelations of our inclusion in the life of the Trinity.

### *2 Corinthians 5:19,*

*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, ...,"*

Reconciliation is not something we achieve through our discipline and diligence — it is something we awaken to. This amazing discovery, that God is not “out there” but within us. What is needed is that we will grow in our awareness, realizing that God is with us, and in us. This awareness, and the intentional embrace of this reality is the key to spiritual transformation. The reward of Christianity is not heaven, but rather restored intimacy with the Father. Religion thrives on DISTANCE and DELAY. We have to recognize that the heart of the gospel is about a father who wants to restore His family back together. UNION.

### *2 Cor 6:18*

*“and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”*

In the New Testament there is an ever-present theme of an awareness of this awesome truth that God is our Father and He has made His abode in us. We are called to awaken to an awareness of union with Him.

Jesus modeled this reality to us in his incarnation. His whole life was the manifestation of a human being living in absolute union with the Divine. **God was His Father.** This was made evident in how He:

Spoke	He spoke with Authority
Prayed	communion with the Father
Handled challenges	Secure in the knowledge that God was with Him
Engaged people	Sinners were attracted to Him - desiring what they saw in Him.

**John 1:4**

*In him was life; and the life was the light of men ...*

**John 10:10**

*... I have come that they may have life, .....*

Everything we admire in Jesus – **He has come to reproduce in us**. Jesus knew that we could embrace and live in the fullness of this new life. Manifesting this life is to live aware of the father in you.

That doesn't start when we go to heaven. Knowing God (eternal life) is something we can have right now.

**John 17:3**

*'And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Jesus knew that His Mission was to bring a real realization to us of the privilege of closeness to the Father.

Because of this very communication of **proximity with God as his father**, that the Jews want to kill him.

**John 5:18-19**

*Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said **that God was His Father**, making Himself equal with God. Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for **whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner***

In the gospel of John, there are 112 references to the concept of Father. When Jesus references the Father, it is not some distant figure, but one with whom he shares an intimate relationship.

**John 5:26**

*For as the Father **has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,***

*John 10:17*

*I and My Father **are one**....*

*John 10:30*

*My Father **loves Me**...*

He lived **from** the Father's approval, not **for** it! This was His vision for us:

*John 14:1-3*

*Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

***In My Father's house** are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare (a) place for you. And if I go and prepare (a) place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."*

The idea is not of luxurious estates as the English word "mansion" might imply today, but rather of permanent, prepared dwelling places in God's presence. There is plenty of room with the Father.

Most translations say "dwelling places" "rooms" or "**plenty of room**," as the TNIV helpfully puts it.

*John 14:4-6*

*Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the **way**, the **truth**, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'*

Jesus declares **the place** –The Father. Jesus declares **the way** – Through Him

This is not a building project in heaven – Jesus creates with one word.

*John 14:7-9*

*"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

#### 4 cups – Father / Jesus / Holy Spirit / Us

##### *John 14:10-11*

*Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*

Jesus makes radical statement. **Union with the father.**

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

##### *John 14 : 16 - 19*

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may **abide with you forever** – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you** and will be in you. **I will not leave you orphans**; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, **but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.***

The difference between a son or daughter and the spiritual orphan simply the willingness to receive the love of the Father. The New Testament **is not about achieve – it is about receive.**

##### *John 1:12*

*But to all who did receive him, .... he gave the right to become children of God,*

Many resist the love of the father – the fundamental wounding of humanity is an orphaned heart. **Jesus has come to the orphanage of this world to bring us home!**

##### *John 14:20*

*At that day you will know that **I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.***

##### *John 14:23*

*Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.***

The implications of this are profound. If there is no more distance between us and God, then God is not a far-off deity to be appeased but a loving Father who has come near.

##### *Romans 8:15*

*“You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”*

## WORSHIP

Our worship, then, should reflect this intimacy. Rather than singing songs that beg for God or the Holy Spirit to “come down” or ‘come near”. This would suggest God is withholding presence or affection. We should choose songs that celebrate **union, presence, and belovedness**. This is what it means to worship in spirit and in truth. Worship becomes **less about striving** and **more about celebrating** what is already true.

Out of our innermost being, should flow rivers of living water. This implies that in our worship, we no longer entertain any measure of distance, and choose to remove every worship song that would do this.

## PRAYER

Prayer, too, is transformed. No longer a transaction or a distant plea, prayer becomes communion – an intimate conversation with the One who dwells within. As we awaken to this truth, we are invited to live from our deepest identity: beloved children, already at home in the heart of God. God has desired through all the ages to be reunited with us, and as children now accepted in the beloved to commune with him. **Jesus did not come to change God’s mind about us, he came to change our mind about God.**

We shift from prayers that beg for closeness - to prayers that deepen awareness of nearness. Prayer rooted in this awareness fosters **rest, gratitude, and unshakable trust**.

Recognizing that there is no distance between us and God – and that He is our Father – liberates us from fear and striving.

## IT REORIENTS WORSHIP TO CELEBRATION AND TRANSFORMS PRAYER INTO COMMUNION.

### Discussion questions:

1. Why do you think many of our people still live with a sense of distance between them and the father?
2. How can we ensure that our preaching and worship does not reinforce distance?
3. Consider how this revelation impacts on your own prayer life.