

I believe in Father God  
1 John 3:1-6

When we declare as generation upon generation before us have declared that God is our Father, we are making a statement of love and belonging - of privilege and joy.

And we have messed up this relationship of goodness and lavish love in our heads and hearts so badly in recent times.

The fatherhood of God is about the claim of responsibility God has on the world.

That claim is one whereby he creates and declares it good and then reveals the pattern for good fatherhood through the way he interacts with the Son, Jesus.

Again, it is through claiming and delighting, through the Father's trusting and supporting that Jesus is among us...

We have remade God as Father in the image of a not good earthly father- of sternness and punishment rather than of lavishly giving good things and pouring out love.

But can't we say God is parent? Well, yes of course - there are plenty of images of God as mother throughout the Bible too. And we can look at those in due course.

Today, we are looking at a picture of God as being the father of all. Responsible for and to his children. Celebrating success and allowing failure - as we see in The Prodigal Son...

We bear the DNA of our creator, a mark of faith and our new creation credentials are that we are born of the new life that comes from being saved by God through Jesus Christ. To be able to say God is My Father, means that we acknowledge that we are part of another family- the Church in which God is the Father, the one who gives us the inheritance of his kingdom...

You can listen to my other sermon on YouTube for how that makes us look different- but for now the message is- although the world may have spoiled the earthly image of fatherhood like it has spoiled the very creation itself, the true Father in whose image earthly fatherhood is patterned is still good. There are still good fathers and there is still good earth.

John reminds us that the father LAVISHES great love upon his children. And right now, I could do with a lavish, loving father to fill me up with the joy and life that only he can give - attaining the likeness of God so that, with satisfaction, I too May lavish love upon the world in the way my father does...