



## Dear Friends,

I love preaching. I also appreciate taking a break from preaching to sit under someone else's teaching. I am thankful for Kevin Huynh, our associate minister, and student ministers, whose preaching God uses to minister to my soul.

Last Sunday, Luke Tucker, a student minister, preached from Galatians 4. The main theme of the sermon was that God is our Father. If we belong to Christ, we are no longer slaves striving to win the love of God and others by our own efforts or relieving ourselves of shame and fear by finding solace in career, sex, or money. Instead, we are God's children because Christ redeemed us by his sacrificial death at the cross.

As Luke unpacked the passage, he unearthed lots of treasures for our consideration. I liked his line that we kid ourselves into believing that we are logical creatures "who make decisions based on rational principles that come from our brains." People are not brains on sticks. The truth is, we are desiring beings. People are mostly driven by what they love or fear rather than rational thinking.

But it was what Luke said about the truth that God is our Father that made the deepest impression on me. He encouraged us to remind ourselves every morning, "I am a child of God." He then said:

*I bet life would feel very different if you wrote that on a piece of paper and read it each morning.*

This is absolutely true. My life has been changed forever by the reality that in Christ, my sin has been forgiven and I have been reconciled to God. Knowing God as my Father has informed who I married, how we raised our kids, where to live, what to do for a day job, our financial choices, how I treat others, what to do with my time. The list goes on and on.

So, how can you and I put that gospel truth into practice that God is my Father? How do we remind ourselves daily that I am his son or daughter?

To answer the question, it helps to know we are not alone in this. Galatians 4:6-7 says:

*Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

The Holy Spirit, who lives in us, constantly reminds us that we are saved by Jesus and so, we belong to God. How does the Spirit impress this precious truth on hearts? He does it by means of prayer and Scripture. We are to pray and read our Bibles daily.

Whenever we pray, we can call God, Father, because we have the Spirit of the Son of the Father dwelling in us. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he began with the words, "Our Father in heaven." So, we pray to God the Father, through God the Son, in the fellowship of God the Holy Spirit. You are reminded you are a child of God every time you pray to your Heavenly Father.

Whenever we read Scripture, we hear our loving Father speak. He speaks to us through his Son and by his Spirit. The Spirit takes the words of Scripture that God speaks, and by his power, he enables you and me "to grasp how wide and long and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:18-19).

God Bless,  
Mark Adams