**I WANT TO BE LIKE MY FATHER**

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

[**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-5-1/)**Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;**

[**2**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-5-2/)**And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.**

**INTRO:**

**Illustration:  Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter, caught crocodiles because his dad caught crocodiles, and Steve wanted to be just like his dad.  He lived his life on the edge.  Everything he did was outrageous and frightening as he caught the most dangerous snakes, animals, amphibians, and even insects. He lived his life in the extreme, just because that’s what his dad taught him, and Steve wanted to be just like his dad. “Like father like son” was especially true between Steve and his dad.**

**\*\* Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:1 to follow our heavenly father as dear children. In other words, be like your heavenly Father.**

**\*\* If we’re going to be like our heavenly Father, then we must follow Him around and do everything He does and do everything He says!**

**\*\*Using the acronym for FATHER, let me tell you what you will become by following God as dear children.**

**F – Stands for Faithful**

 **You will be faithful to Christ, to your Companion, and to your Children.**

**A – Stands for Affection**

 **You will love the Savior, the Saved, the Sanctuary, the**

**Spirit, and the Sinner.**

**T – Stands for Trustful**

 **You words and your worship and your ways can be trusted to be true.**

**H – Stands for Holiness**

 **You live right and you live redeemed because the Holy Father lives in you.**

**E – Stands for Empowered**

 **You are empowered by the Spirit and by the Savior to overcome the world because He has all power, and He lives in you!**

**R – Stands for Reliable
 You are reliable just like the Lord is reliable because the Lord lives in you.**

**\*\*I want to follow God like a little child and do everything He tells me and do everything that He does.**

**\*\* Why? Because I WANT TO BE LIKE MY FATHER**

**Here is why I want to be like my Father.**

**I. BECAUSE HE IS A FANTASTIC FATHER**

 **A. HE IS FANTASTIC IN HIS PURITY**

 **1. He’s Pure in His Holiness**

 **2. He’s Pure in His Heart**

 **3. He’s Pure in His Humbleness**

 **4. He’s Pure in His Honesty**

**\*\*How many know the Lord is pure? Then be like your Heavenly Father and get a pure heart and live pure!
 B. HE IS FANTASTIC IN HIS PROMISES**

**II Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
 1. His Promises can be Told**

 **a. They don’t end with Shame**

 **b. They don’t end with Sorrow**

 **2. His Promises can be Trusted**

 **a. His promises are Reliable**

 **b. His promises are Remarkable
 C. HE IS FANTASTIC IN HIS POWER**

**Psalms 103:20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in
strength, that do his commandments,
 1. He has Mighty Power**

 **2. He has Marvelous Power
 D. HE IS FANTASTIC IN HIS PLEASURES**

 **1. His Pleasures are Amazing**

 **2. His Pleasures are Authentic
 E. HE IS FANTASTIC IN HIS PLACES**

**Psalms 103:22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion:**

 **1. His Places are Special Places**

 **2. His Places are Significant Places
\*\*I want to be a fantastic man and a fantastic father.**

**II. BECAUSE HE IS A FORGIVING FATHER**

**Psalms 103:3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities;
 A. IN QUANTITY HE IS FORGIVING**

**\*\*He forgives ALL sin no matter how Tiny, Tall, Thick, Taunted, Tarnished, or Tough the sin may be.**

**\*\*There are big sins and little sins in the sense that some sins will cause you more consequences than others and cause you more pain than others. However, there are not big sins or little sins when it comes to God’s forgiveness.
 B. IN QUICKNESS HE IS FORGIVING**

 **1. Mercifully He Quickly Forgives**

 **2. Marvelously He Quickly Forgives**

 **C. IN QUALITY HE IS FORGIVING**

 **1. Notice the Distance of His Favor**

**Psalms 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so
great is his mercy toward them that fear him.**

 **2. Notice the Dimensions of His Forgiveness**

**Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

**\*\*I want to be a forgiving man and a forgiving father.**

**\*\*I want to be like my Father.**

**III. BECAUSE HE IS A FAIR FATHER**

 **A. HE’S FAIR IN HIS EXECUTION**

**Psalms 103:6, 10 The LORD executeth righteousness and
judgment. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**

 **1. His Righteousness is Fair**

 **2. His Review is Fair**

 **3. His Ruling is Fair**

 **4. His Reward is Fair
 B. HE’S FAIR IN HIS EXAMPLES**

**Psalms 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.**

 **1. He’s fair to those who Follow.**

 **2. He’s fair to those who Forsake.**

 **C. HE’S FAIR IN HIS EXPRESSION**

**Psalms 103:8-10 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
 1. His Affection is fair toward us.**

 **2. His Anger is fair toward us.**

 **3. His Acquittal is fair toward us.**

**\*\*Thank God the Lord is FAIR! If not where would we be today?**

**\*\*I want to be a fair man and a fair father.**

**\*\*I want to be like my Father.**

**IV. BECAUSE HE IS A FAITHFUL FATHER**

**\*\* If there was one characteristic I wish I could impress upon the average Dad today, it would be faithfulness. When you're Faithful many times the other characteristics will**

**follow.
 A. IN HIS COMPASSION HE’S FAITHFUL**

**Psalms 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the
LORD pitieth them that fear him.**

 **1. He has compassion for His Children.**

 **2. He has compassion for His Church.
 B. IN HIS COMPREHENSION HE’S FAITHFUL Psalms 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth
that we are dust.**

 **1. He remembers and understands our Failures.**

 **2. He remembers and understands our Flesh.
 C. IN HIS CONCERN HE’S FAITHFUL**

 **1. He’s Faithful to offer His Gospel.**

 **2. He’s Faithful to offer His Grace.
\*\*I want to be a faithful man and a faithful father.**

**\*\*I want to be like my Father.**

**V. BECAUSE HE IS A FARSIGHTED FATHER**

 **A. IN REGARDS TO HIS PLAN**

**Psalms 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.**

 **1. His Plan for His Mercy is Eternal.**

 **2. His Plan for His Mercy is Everlasting.
 B. IN REGARDS TO HIS PREPARATIONS**

 **1. He is Preparing His People**

 **Psalms 103:17b-18 and his righteousness unto
children's children; 18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.**

 **2. He is Preparing His Place
Psalms 103:19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in
the heavens;
\*\* Thank God that He has been Farsighted in my life.
\*\* I want to be a farsighted man and a farsighted father, and look down the road to make sure that I’m prepared for eternity, and try to prepare my family for eternity!**

**\*\*I want to be like my Father.**

**\*\*Are you farsighted or are you just living for today?**

**CLOSE**

**1. How many men will gather in this altar and say to the Lord, “I want to be like my Father.”?**

**2. Lord help me to be a Forgiving, Fair, Faithful, Farsighted, and even Fantastic in my walk with you.**

**3. How many of the ladies will come and say to the Lord, “I want to be like my Father.”?**

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**Illustration: A wealthy man in Nashville, TN made his living off of showboats on the river which included bars and gambling casinos. One day he noticed he was losing a substantial amount of customers. He wanted to know where they were going.**

 **Soon he found out there was a preacher in town holding a revival. People were getting saved, following the Lord as dear children, and quitting their drinking and gambling.**

 **This made the businessman angry, and he decided to let that preacher have it. He even planned to go to the meeting and stand up and heckle the preacher while he preached. However, something happened when he got there. The Holy Spirit convicted him, and he got gloriously saved.**

 **Right in the meeting after he got saved, the wealthy man said he was going to shut down all his bars and gambling rings and build a tabernacle for the preacher to preach in. In other words, he got the real thing and he began following God immediately, and he wanted to be like his Father! He did what he said and built the Union Gospel Tabernacle. Twelve years after the businessman died, they renamed the tabernacle after him. The Ryman Auditorium was named after Mr. Tom Ryman who knelt one night and decided, “I want to follow God like a child and be like my Father.”**

**\*\*Will you make that choice today?**