

The Father Fracture

*Satan knows that if he can fracture the foundational relationship between us and the Father, he can use the resulting wound to bring a person and even a generation to its knees, bowing in subjection before him, seeking to fill the emptiness that ensues. **John Sowers- Fatherless Generation***

- A. The father fracture is an epidemic that is hitting this generation with great force and is the seedbed for many other issues. This one wound becomes the source for many other issues and sources of oppression in many lives.
- B. Currently we are seeing as many as 50-60% of marriages end in divorce meaning that potentially 1 in 2 young people are experiencing the loss of a family structure. Many find themselves without a positive, loving father, which creates great ripples throughout the rest of their lives [potentially]. This is not including the children that are born outside of marriage or to single mothers.
- C. One of the greatest impacts of fatherlessness is how it shapes our beliefs and perception of our God and Father.
- D. This is a strategic attack by the enemy to keep a generation from embracing the good news found in Christ. The gospel message is centered around the reconciliation of the children of God to their Father. This was accomplished as the Son of God took our place upon the cross **so that we could no longer be slaves to sin but sons of God.**
- E. There are two fathers who are seeking to impact men's hearts: the father of lies and the Father of glory. We are either being shaped and following the father of lies or the father of glory.

Father Fracture

The reason I coined the word "Father fracture" was to illustrate what I have seen for over a decade of working with this generation. If I fracture my foot severely, I may be able to put some amount of pressure or weight upon it. However, if I place more weight upon it I will break my foot and lose my ability to walk. This is an illustration of what I have seen over and over again tragically. Young and zealous Christians go hard after God and begin to experience His presence and His promises, however when they begin to build upon their fractured foundation eventually everything collapses because of the faulty foundation. Usually this collapse takes on the form of major sin or moral failure, anger toward God, or they just simply quite because they can never seem to "get over the hump" of their past. They have a fracture in the core of who they are and it hinders them from truly being able to build something that will be sustained for a long period of time.

The enemy has specially identified the area of fatherhood in this generation to smear the image of our heavenly Father, thus keeping an entire generation from their inheritance in Christ- a loving intimate secure relationship with their Father, the One who created them in love to know and experience His heart.

What is salvation?

- A. The church has reduced the amazing depths of salvation down to a simple prayer repeated and then you are “in” or “saved”. However, Jesus came to do more than have people repeat a prayer. His mission was to reconcile sinful humanity back to their Father.
- B. One of Jesus’ main missions was to restore the image of the Father to humanity. He came to show us what God was like, shattering the false images and caricatures that stand in the heart of man. He said in John 14 that if we have seen Him we have seen the Father. This concept is repeated many times so we should not diminish the truth presented. Jesus came and demonstrated the fullness of the Father to us so we could have confidence what He is like.
- C. The cross was necessary to bridge the gulf between humanity and God. Jesus redeemed us from the penalty of sin and the sentence of death. He also restored us back to sons/daughters of God instead of slaves to sin under the authority of darkness. When we receive Christ as Lord and Savior we are given the right to become [or be called and live as] children of God. [John 1:12-13]
- D. Salvation is directly connected to the concept of sonship. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost-sons and daughters. [Luke 19:10, Romans 8:15, Galatians 3:26, 4:4-7]

Why is the Father heart of God important?

- A. What we believe to be true about God in the deepest parts of our heart will massively impact how we live and walk out our faith.
- B. We must begin to see God differently. There are over 300 names for God that describe His character throughout scripture, but none of them were emphasized more by Jesus than the understanding of God as our Father.
- C. Jesus Tells Phillip in John 14:8 that His entire ministry on the Earth for 3 years was centered around revealing the God as Father.
- D. Jesus came to reveal to humanity the nature and heart of the Father and offer us a relationship with Him through His atoning death.
- E. Our relational approach to God is not primarily “Lord”, “Mighty One” etc but Father and daddy [Abba was an Aramaic term for the first words a child makes crying out to their father. This is

the way we are instructed by the Son to approach the Father in prayer/ a time of need] Angels don't call Him Abba, redeemed humanity calls Him Abba.

- F. The height of revelation on this facet of God was delivered personally by Jesus Himself in a parable of the prodigal son describing the God and Father He had known for all eternity. [Luke 15] Jesus was purposing to mark the hearts of those who heard Him what His Father is like.
- G. **The revelation of God as Father touches the deepest of human needs.** It answers the question of why we are here/created. This revelation gives us the assurance that we are loved, valued, secure, protected, have provision and guards us from accusation, condemnation, guilt, shame and fear. This is the key that unlocks so many chambers of our heart.
- H. **Our lives will remain broken, unsettled and unsatisfied until we know the embrace of the Father.** Someone else's experience and understanding will only take you so far. We must encounter the Father Jesus knew. This is what He died to give us access to.
- I. **What is tied to the role of a father?**
 - a. Identity: the one whom you receive your name
 - b. Security:
 - c. Provision:
 - d. Teaching and instruction:
 - e. Covering:
 - f. Love, affection and affirmation:
 - g. Destiny/Purpose:

Why is this so difficult?

- A. Because of sin, lack of true repentance [change of mind through encountering truth] bad experience and our past viewing God as our Father is not always easy. However, the truth remains and beckons us to believe that God is our Father in heaven and He is full of mercy, compassion, power, affection and desire for us.
- B. For so many of us the thoughts of "father" stir up so many emotions of failure, anger, hurt, abuse, rejection, distance, instead of love, mercy, affection etc.
- J. However difficult this is we must begin to retrain our minds and hearts to relate to Him on the basis of His heart and nature as laid out in scripture. We must come on His terms: on the basis of **whom He says He is, who He says we are to Him** and **how He feels about us**. Our emotions and past will lie to us and taint the glorious Father laid out in scripture.

- K. Sometimes it is difficult to perceive and know all of the areas that are affected by our fractured foundational understanding of the heart of God as Father.

What is your response after you have fallen in sin or weakness? Do you fear God and run to another source of comfort and pleasure to drown your guilt? Do you throw yourself into a religious frenzy and work to atone for your failure to appease an angry God? What your heart tells you in the midst of failure is at times a clear window into the level of truth you walk in and your perception of the Father's heart.

To understand the nature of the battle we face in our hearts we must understand the origin of the fracture in humanity's heart.

Origin of father fracture

Genesis: place of pleasure

- A. In the beginning, the God who was in need of nothing, self-sufficient and self-reliant, made a choice in love to create humanity. He did this unlike any other facet of creation. He created humanity unique from the plants, trees, mountains, animals or even the angels; He created them in His image, His likeness, gave them His breath and called them into deep, intimate fellowship with His heart. In the place of pleasure [Eden] humanity and Deity walked together exploring the depths of creation and each other's hearts.
- B. As they were laying the foundation of intimacy in their relationship, the enemy came and offered them a source outside of their Source [Father means source], and this was the beginning of the fall of humanity into spiritual death and darkness.
- C. In the midst of freedom, there was a choice to love or to sin. We chose sin and as it was introduced, humanity became orphaned and separated from their Father.
- A. Death was introduced: spiritual, physical, eternal.
 - B. God spoke to them in the day they chose a source apart from Him it would bring death. We see this in Jeremiah 2:13 repeated that God's people continue to choose a source outside of God the true Source.
- D. The essence of the temptation that the devil brings is:
- a. There is more for you outside of what God has given or provided [though His provision in our life is unlimited]

- b. What is outside of what God has given is better
- c. God is withholding from you [accusation against His heart, therefore we would be foolish to continue to trust in Him]
- E. The introduction of sin into the human experience brought many consequences to the relationship between God and man
- F. We sin when we are unsatisfied with our relationship with God. It is a symptom to a greater problem: a disconnected heart.

Consequences in the relationship between God and man due to sin

Fear and shame [Gen 3:7-10]

- A. When sin came into the equation, immediately it distorted the image, nature and heart of God to man.
 - a. Instead of running to their Father, they ran and hid in shame and fear
 - b. The voice that was filled with tenderness and love now caused them to tremble and hide.
- B. Fear and shame caused them to hide from the presence of the Lord, to run from His voice and find another source or solution to their fear and shame.
 - a. Hide from presence: disconnected from His heart
 - b. Run from His voice: disconnected from His Word, truth, counsel, wisdom
 - c. Another source or solution: counterfeit affections, broken cisterns [Jer 2:13]
- C. Sin also changed their perception of themselves. They now saw their condition through the lens of condemnation, accusation, judgment and their lives being “dirty”
- D. **Fear and shame, brought on by sin that is not properly dealt with, is the core issue that causes us to run from God in our failure instead of to God in our failure. When we choose to run from God in our sin, we chose a path of destruction and deception.** Fear and shame are the enemies to an intimate loving relationship with God. They are not from God but war against His purposes and truth in our heart.

FIGLEAF:

F: fear

I: insecurity

G: guilt

L: loneliness

E: escapism

A: anxiety

F: failure

Here is the simple deadly progression

1. As we can see from scripture, one ramification from our sin is **fear**. They fear rejection from God and others if anyone were to find out what they did. This fear keeps them paralyzed from moving forward in their faith. [fear of judgment, rejection, failure etc.]
2. When these fears take root in their hearts, the person then becomes **insecure**. They are insecure before God, with others and themselves. [another word is anxiety. This robs our peace]
3. The consequence of unconfessed sin is **guilt**. This can haunt people with self-condemnation and the feeling that God condemns them. This weighs heavy upon their hearts and becomes a barrier to intimacy and relationship.
4. Like the prodigal son, when we are far from the Father's house we feel **lonely**. If we continue to live in shame and sin, we hinder any true breakthrough in our relationship with God and others. We feel like no one understands us, we feel alone and isolate even in the midst of crowds.
5. Finally, we grow frustrated with our inability to experience the love of God, so we seek out pleasure in other things. This **escapism** is to our own detriment as we can find ourselves deep in addictions, unhealthy relationships, unhealthy lifestyles etc. It is not always finding our escape in unhealthy, obvious sin but can show up in our addiction to religious activity, trying to somehow please God and win His affections again. Self-righteousness is just as dangerous as any other addiction. [2 extremes: lawlessness and legalism]
6. Continuing to live separate from the security of the love of the Father brings **anxiety** to our heart. We know something is off; we have no peace and can find no satisfaction in other things. This leaves you feeling hollow and unfulfilled.
7. As we continue living in sin separate from our loving Father, the natural consequence is continual **failure**. Our relationships fail, our heart begins to fail us, even the things we thought would bring pleasure begin to fail. We are left all alone, like the prodigal son, in our own mess covered in failure.

In this place we must gain truth, revelation and understanding of the heart of God. Our choice is either staying and dying in the "pig pen" of our choices/rebellion or returning to our Father.

The search for truth

Our wrong view of God causes us to run from Him in the midst of our sin instead of running to Him. Because of our wrong view and the wrong understanding that we cannot run to Him and freely receive mercy and forgiveness, we run to counterfeit comforts and covers. These counterfeits provide a "safe place" to receive the comfort/cover we long for. The danger is these comforts/covers will soon lead us further and further away from the presence of God and lead us into a cycle of sin. The inevitable outcome is deep bondage. Our perception of God is so vital to our relationship with the Father. Many of us are struggling with habits and sin because we are knowingly or unknowingly trying to find satisfaction, comfort and cover in something that only God can give us. Yet in the deep places our heart we believe lies concerning His heart and nature. The safety and familiarity that some of our counterfeit comforts/cover bring us keeps us from having to be vulnerable and opening up to others and God.

- A. If we don't gain revelation in the midst of our failure we will run from him instead of to Him. Our run from Him is always running from truth into lies and deception. We leave the light of His presence for the darkness of sin.
- B. 2 Timothy 2:25-26 tells us the remedy to this lifestyle

*25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. **2Timothy 2:25-26***

- The opposition in our hearts is our agreement with lies instead of agreement with truth. When we believe a lie, we oppose truth [in thought and deed]
- The solution is the Lord releasing repentance to position their hearts to receive truth
- The outcome is the person will come to themselves [recognize true identity as son] and gain freedom from the captivity of the enemy

There are two fathers mentioned in scripture: the Father of glory, the source of truth, love and life and the father of lies who is the source of deception and speaks only destructive lies concerning the heart and nature of God and our identity.

We must understand how important our choices are to who is leading our life and who we are listening to. We have a choice to agree with truth or agree with lies.

*³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. **John 8:31-36***

- A. In context Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees and declaring the truth of who He was, who His Father was and where He came from. The Pharisees rejected His witness to truth
- B. I believe that Jesus was declaring the way to live in freedom as sons of God. Truth is a vital aspect of that: truth about who He is and His heart toward us.

The foundation of our intimacy and relationship with God is a heart filled with truth concerning who He is and His heart toward us. Anything else will cause us to run from Him in the midst of our failure and sin instead of toward His loving embrace.