

What Kind of Father?

I. The Image of Unseen Father

Children experience their mother directly. The father is a more indirect relationship.

“Clever bio” - Born at a young age, very close to my mother.

Ultimately the Source of All.

*Before all time, **the Son** is begotten of the Father. Light from Light. True God from True God. Begotten not Made.*

*The **Holy Spirit** proceeds from the Father. Is poured out by the Son.*

Through the Son, Creation & new creation. Through the Holy Spirit the Promise of the Father, regeneration.

II. Coming to the Father

A. Purpose of the Incarnation

[John 14.6](#) Jesus said to him, “I am the **way**, and the **truth**, and the **life**. **No one comes to the Father except through me.** [7](#) If you had **known me**, you would have **known my Father** also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” [8](#) Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” [9](#) Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

B. Incomplete Understanding can be Wrong

[Heb 1.1](#) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2](#) but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the **heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.** [3](#) He is the radiance of the glory of God and **the exact imprint of his**

nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins,...

If we present an INCOMPLETE PICTURE as the whole picture, it becomes a distortion and just plain wrong.

So the Father is misunderstood without the Son.

III. Misperceptions of the Heart of the Father

Luke 15.1–3 ESV 1 Now the **tax collectors** and **sinnners** were all **drawing near** to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3 **So he told them this parable:**

Lost Sheep

Lost Coin

Man with 2 Sons Who Didn't Know Him

A. The Far Away Wild Lost Son

Luke 15.12 NLT The **younger** son told his father, ‘**I want my share** of your estate **now** before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 “A **few days later** this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a **distant land**, and there he **wasted** all his money in **wild living**. **14 About the time** his money ran out, a **great famine** swept over the land, and he began to starve. **15** He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. **16** The young man **became** so **hungry** that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. **17** “When he finally **came to his senses**, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! **18 I will go home to my father** and say, “Father, I have

sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am **no longer worthy** of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”

The Father and freedom.

**Distance, Waste, Timing, Need, Memory of Home,
Self-help plan. No longer worthy. Hire me.**

B. The Father Revealed toward the Wild Son

Luke 15.20 NLT “So he returned home to his **father**. And while he was **still a long way off**, his **father saw him** coming. **Filled with love and compassion**, he **ran** to his son, **embraced** him, and **kissed** him. 21 **His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’**

22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘**Quick!** Bring the **finest robe** in the house and put it on him. Get a **ring** for his finger and **sandals** for his feet. 23 And **kill the calf** we have been fattening. **We must celebrate with a feast**, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ **So the party began.**

Before he was looking for the Father the Father was looking for him.

CONNECTED at a gut level. Filled Love and Compassion

Ran - Threw away dignity and decorum. Scandalous!

Who is returning?!!

Hugged! Kissed again and again.

Son’s speech cut short!

QUICK!!

FINEST ROBE RING SANDALS

KILL THE CALF - I will sacrifice for you!

WE MUST CELEBRATE

Looking for you!

Redefines Sinner into Son?

The first robe. The Ring of Access. Sandals of free man status

The feast! In His Presence – JOY!

C. The Nearby Lost Obedient Son

Luke 15.25 NLT “Meanwhile, the older son was **in the fields working**. When he returned home, he **heard music** and **dancing** in the house, **26** and he asked one of the servants what was going on. **27** **‘Your brother is back,’** he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are **celebrating** because of his safe return.’

28 “The older brother was **angry** and **wouldn’t go in**. **His father came out and begged him**, **29** but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve **slaved** for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you **never gave me even one young goat** for a feast with my friends. **30** Yet [NKJ as soon as] when **this son of yours** comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

31 “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have **always** stayed by me, and **everything** I have is yours. **32** We had to celebrate this happy day. For **your brother** was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

He offends our minds to reveal our hearts. Challenging the misperceptions to change them.

The hard working, conscientious brother

Offended at scandalous grace! Won't join the party!

Father LEAVES the party to invite the older son. ***begged him.***

The accusation - I've worked hard. Yet you celebrate this disgrace to the family!

I've been both sons. Both were lost outside of relationship

We both need the Father.

The character of a Father is to welcome, celebrate, define family bonds as unconditional, offer full inheritance.

BOTH/AND!

THE CODE – YOU ARE HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS IN CREATION, CREATED FOR UNIQUE COMMUNION!

God of Hope!