

Trusting Father's Faithfulness - Father's Day 2021

Rev. Scott McGinnis - First Presb. Church of Newton, KS - June 20, 2021

You are among your church family today. We celebrate today and every Sunday that we have been united in Jesus by His Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul says there are a lot of things that divide people, but having put our faith in Jesus we are united by Jesus. In the words of the apostle Paul,

Some of us are Jews, and others are Gentiles. Some of us are slaves, and others are free. But God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit. (1 Cor 12:13 CEV)

You are the Body of Christ and that is a wonderfully diverse thing!

We have also been adopted into God's family. By faith, we have been brought into the Father's house as brothers and sisters of Jesus. Just as a family is blessed by brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins, and grandpas and grandmas, so is our a church family. Each person here is a unique blessing for our church.

It's a big deal to be part of Jesus' Church here or anywhere. It means each one of us is important. Each one of us gets to serve men and women, young and old, visitors and long-time friends. Each one of us has gifts from the Holy Spirit to be used as a blessing for ourselves

and for others. As Jesus' Church, we are part of God's blessing to the world.

If God needs a teacher to teach the Gospel in His Name, He finds one in His Church.

If God needs a nurse to help the sick in His Name, He finds one in His Church.

If God needs retired folk to be a blessing in His Name, He finds them in His Church.

If God needs children to bring smiles and joy in His Name, He finds them in His Church.

There's a poem in William Barclay's Corinthians commentary that says of Jesus' Church,

*"He has no hands but our hands to do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in His way;
He has no voice but our voice to tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help to lead them to His side."*

As Jesus' Body, the Church, we sympathize and care for each other. We work together. We share our hope in Jesus. It's an amazing adventurous thing being the Body of Christ. I like adventure.

There is so much in this life that we can either be afraid of or we can decide to experience with Jesus as our Head. We believe Jesus makes a good life possible, but this resurrection life *IS* an adventure! The Apostle Paul writes, **This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-**

tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike *"What's next, Papa?"* Romans 8:15-17 Message paraphrase

On Father's Day, I want us to live adventurously expectant holding Father's hand. Adventurously expectant that our Heavenly Father has something good for you. *"What's next, Papa?"* Today we can turn our attention to our True Father in Heaven and say, *"What's next, Papa?"*

Jesus didn't call us His Body and then leave us to fend for ourselves. He's bringing us all into His Kingdom. We have this hope in our adventure.

I've heard it said of God's Kingdom that, *"Heaven is a place for imperfect people."* Kind of a different way to think about it, but has it ever been otherwise? When you get adopted into God's family, by the act of putting your faith in Jesus, you get in on the goods of God's family. You have the 100% hope of the 100% inheritance of all God's Kingdom. No small time, corner of the Kingdom, scraps from the table, indentured servant inheritance.

When you join Father's family, you get it all. The whole shebang! Let me update my heaven quote, *"Heaven is the perfect place for imperfect people."* We have a lot to look forward to. Nothing will prevent this glorious end of our grand adventure.

The Apostle Paul says the Holy Spirit confirms this hope,

God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children.

On this Father's Day, can we say, *"What's next, Papa?"* The Apostle Paul's says again, **And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."** Galatians 4:6 NLT

You can call God "Abba," "Papa," because God loves you that much. And our Papa's family is the best family to be part of. The self-giving love of God the Father, Jesus our brother, and the Holy Spirit our comforter, counselor, and guide are just what we need. They truly know how to be family!

Jesus, our best Big Brother, is the best person to walk with through this adventure of life. He helps us, protects us, encourages us, and you know, He's walked this life also, so He knows what He's doing and where we're going.

Paul says in Romans 8, **And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!** Romans 8:15-17 MSG

When you invite Jesus' Holy Spirit to fill you and guide you, then life can become a grand adventure. Life is not something to fear, as some might want you to think. Life is

not something to bore you, nor something to escape. Life for living! Anything that threatens life is not from God. Life is to be enjoyed with our good, true and faithful Heavenly Father saying, ***“What’s next, Papa?”***

Paul writes, Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:2-21 NIV

That’s joyful news today and everyday!