

**Jesus, Everlasting Father – Isaiah 9:6-7**  
Sermon – Pastor Joe Davis  
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**INTRODUCTION**

As we begin today, I'd like to ask you to think about the man who is your dad for a moment. Every one of us has one. So pull him up in your mind right now. For some here today, thinking about your earthly dad might be pleasant and enjoyable. You were fortunate to have a good and decent dad who did his best to love you and care for you. But for others thinking about your dad could be painful and unpleasant, or there may not be much to think about because he was absent from your life. You may be wishing you'd stayed at home today because the last thing you wanted to think about is your dad. But even if your dad was good one, one thing is certain: he had some flaws...he wasn't perfect. If I asked you to name a few your dad's flaws, I'm quite certain you could all come up with some. If we had my two kids, Hailey and Isaac, come up here right now and tell you a few of my weaknesses and failures, they'd have no problem.

So do you have your own dad in mind right now, with all his strengths, weaknesses, successes and failures? Now think about what it would have been like to have Jesus Christ as your dad instead. Think about Jesus as we see him revealed in the gospels, during his 33 years of walking among us, and then picture him as your dad. Do you think your growing up experience would have been a little different? Does the thought of Jesus as your dad appeal to you or maybe sound a little too intense? Well, judging by the way Jesus' disciples loved to be with him and followed him around wherever he went, I would say that Jesus as dad would be a wonderful thing.

But you might say: God the Father is the Father figure, not Jesus, so why are we thinking about Jesus in a father role? Well, I plan to show you why in our study today. If you'll remember, during this Christmas season and as we begin a new year, we're taking an in depth look at 4 names of Jesus that were revealed 700 years before he took on human flesh. These names are found in a prophetic passage about the coming Christ-child found in Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 to 7.

Let's read these verses as we begin today:

***6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

Jesus' name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Last week we took a close look at Jesus revealed as Mighty God in 4 different time periods ranging from eternity past to eternity future. We discovered that the Jesus who walked among us for 33 years in humility and kindness and patient love, is also the all-powerful Creator of all things; the Mighty Warrior Hero God who appeared multiple times in the Old Testament; the glorious Son of God in dazzling white clothing that Peter, James and John saw at his Transfiguration; and the coming Judge of all the earth who will one day be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, and before whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord of all.

Jesus is Mighty God who, out of love for the rebellious people he created and his desire to restore them to relationship with their God, Father and Creator, ***"...made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."*** And if that doesn't look like perfect, fatherly love to you, you may have a flawed concept of what love really is! The wonderful reality is that Jesus, Mighty God, in all his splendor and power and majesty, invites weak, imperfect people like you and me to become God's children and then walk through life and eternity with him relating to us as Everlasting Father, Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace. Today we're going to focus on Jesus as Everlasting Father. We really can have Jesus as our own Dad, and I want to show you what I mean as we examine *3 key realities about the everlasting fatherhood of Jesus.*

## THE SOURCE OF HIS FATHERHOOD

Let's begin with the first reality, which I've called: *The Source of His Fatherhood*. First off, we need to clear the air. A few of you may already be wondering if I'm trying to say that Jesus is God the Father. You may not be aware of it, but there's actually a whole movement of false teaching right now claiming that Jesus is all there is, and that he himself is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But that's just what it is: *false teaching* that tries to simplify the difficult to understand concept of the Trinity, our Three-in-One God...three distinct persons, but only one God. But guess what, the Trinity is all over Scripture, and its *bedrock truth* that we dare not try to explain away for the purpose of simplifying our awesome and complex God. The consequences for doing so have always been devastating throughout history. So let me be completely clear as we begin: Jesus is not God the Father. The Spirit is not God the Father. We have three distinct persons, but just one God.

So then, how is Jesus Everlasting Father? That's what I'd like to help us understand as we look at *The Source of His Fatherhood*. And simply put, the source of Jesus' fatherhood is God the Father himself. What we need to understand about the Trinity is that the Father, Son and the Spirit are all on the same page. They're all on the same team, you might say and all working together in complete love and unity to accomplish the very same purposes. And there's no conflict, no posturing for position, no jealousy, no one going out on their own to exalt themselves or try to do things a different way. Listen to how Jesus describes how this works in John chapter 5, verses 19 to 20a:

***19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.***

Jesus is Everlasting Father because he's doing what his Father does. He's representing his Father and carrying out the Father's will. God the Father is the perfect, loving Father – its at the core of who he is – and Jesus is one with the Father and does just what his Father does. Like Father, like Son. ***"...whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."*** So it shouldn't surprise us that Jesus functions as Everlasting Father to God's children.

Jesus is making the Father known to us (see John 1:18) in human terms we can all understand, so that means he's relating to us just as God the Father relates to us. Listen to his words in John chapter 14, verses 9 to 11:

***9...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.***

Our God is Father and both the Son and the Spirit are one with him carry out his will as Father. In other words together they do everything as good, good Father. Jesus is Everlasting Father as God the Father does his works through him.

### **THE PATH TO HIS FATHERHOOD**

Now there is a sense that Jesus is Everlasting Father to everyone in the world, whether they know him and walk with him or not. He is, after all, the one who personally created every single human being, as we saw last week. So you could say he is Father in that sense as well. But Scripture makes it very clear that for us to live in healthy relationship with Jesus as Everlasting Father – to live in his house and experience the amazing fathering of our God – something needs to happen. In other words there is a specific *Path to His Fatherhood*. This is the second reality of the fatherhood of Jesus that we'll examine today: *The Path to His Fatherhood*. How do we get to the place where Jesus is fathering us in a healthy love relationship?

I like to think of this path in terms of the familiar Prodigal Son story Jesus told in Luke chapter 15. The son who has left home, taking his portion of his father's inheritance and wasting it on reckless living is like every person in the world before coming to know Christ...taking the life and breath and talents and abilities they've been given by Jesus and for Jesus and living as if he doesn't exist and that all he's given them is just for their own personal consumption and glory and pleasure. Jesus still loves them deeply, feels compassion for them, and longs for them to come home and live under his fatherly care. But as long as they stay in that far country in rebellion against him and continue to blow their inheritance on

reckless living, the only thing they get to experience of his fatherly love is the money he's given them which is quickly disappearing as they waste it on empty things.

But remember what happened when the prodigal son came to his senses, when he remembered his father and his father's house and realized how miserable his rebellious, shameful and wasteful life had become? As he stood there longing to eat the slop the pigs were eating just to have something in his stomach, his eyes were opened, and he decided that humble repentance, owning up to the terrible things he'd done and pleading for his father's mercy, was the only way out of this mess. And even if it meant having to be just a servant in his father's house instead of a son, it would be infinitely better than this life of rebellion he'd chosen. And that's because he knew that his father was good and merciful and kind...he was a good father, and even treated his servants well.

So the son began the journey home with humility and repentance. And we know what happened from there, though I still love to hear it every time:

***20...But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.***

My friends, that's the path to having Jesus as your Father: humility, repentance and trusting ourselves into his merciful hands; Jesus, Everlasting Father. And when we return to our Father's house he doesn't make us hired hands who live out in the servant's quarters, but he accepts us as his very own sons, putting on the best robe and a beautiful ring and throwing a party because he's so overjoyed we've come home to him.

The apostle Peter invited people to take this path to the fatherhood of Jesus in Acts 3, verse 19, saying: ***"...repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the***

**Lord...** Can you see the prodigal son story there? And the apostle John: ***“But to all who did receive [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*** That shows us another sense in which Jesus is Everlasting Father: it’s through him and belief in his name that we are born again spiritually. In other words, he’s the Father of our new birth as God’s children. The writer of Hebrews describes Jesus as making this statement:

***“Behold, I and the children God has given me”*** (see Hebrews 2:13).

God the Father has given Jesus children, you and I and all those who’ve come home to him through repentance and faith in Jesus’ work on the cross. He’s paid for our sins so we can freely come home in repentance and not have to pay the penalty we deserve. We can move right in the house with him as his beloved sons and daughters and allow our Three-in-One God to father us into much better ways of living life. *Come home*, he says!

### **THE NATURE OF HIS FATHERHOOD**

And this brings us to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final *reality* of the fatherhood of Jesus that I’d like to share with you today: *The Nature of His Fatherhood*. In other words, what kind of father is Jesus? What’s he like as a father? As God the Father does his works through Jesus, Everlasting Father, how will he relate to us and what will it be like to live in his house? Well, I want to provide you a series of snapshots from Scripture that will show you what kind of father our God is. And as I do, I think you’ll see clearly why Peter described living with him as a place where times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord. Let these pictures replace whatever flawed ideas you may have about what a father is like. Here we go:

#### **He is merciful and kind and pursues the rebellious with his love**

Luke 6:35-36

***35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.***

Luke 15:1-2

***Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them"...***

**He values every person he's created and knows all about them**

Matthew 10:29-33

***29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.***

**He SHOWS compassion to those who fear him**

...Those who acknowledge him as their God and Creator and come to him in repentance and faith.

Psalms 103:13-14

***13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.***

**He settles the lost and lonely in a new home**

Psalms 68:5-6a

***5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. 6 God settles the solitary in a home;...***

**He gives his children his Spirit and walks through life with them**

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

***For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will***

***welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."***

**He provides for the needs of his children, freeing them from anxiety**

Matthew 6:25-34

***25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.***

**He gives good gifts to his children**

Matthew 7:11

***11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!***

**He knows us and lets us know him**

John 10:14-15a

***14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;***

## He gives us grace and peace

Romans 1:7

***Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

## He is merciful and comforts us in ALL our affliction

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

***3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.***

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

***16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.***

## He advocates for us with God the Father

1 John 2:1

***My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.***

## He gives us himself and his amazing love

1 John 3:1

***See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.***

John 14:20-21

***20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."***

Psalm 103:8-14

***8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.***

**He lays down his life for us**

John 10:15b

**15...I lay down my life for the sheep.**

**His love never changes or subsides**

As we see in the prodigal son story and in his name: EVERLASTING Father.

It's who he is, and he never walks away or stops being our Father.

### **APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION**

Isn't it a wonderful reality that Jesus is Everlasting Father? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all continually expressing the Father heart of God and relating to us with the perfect, steadfast love of a good, good, good Father. With this understanding, may we run into his arms and stay there, trusting him completely and always sensing his good purposes for us, no matter what we may be going through. His compassion, his kindness, his comfort, his faithfulness, his power are always there and always working for our good. As is his unchanging, steadfast love for us that never ends and never gives up...its everlasting!

Think of how deeply you love any children God has given you and desire the best for them, even when they're being difficult and rebellious. Then magnify that 1,000 times and you'll begin to comprehend the perfect fatherly love of our God and how deeply he desires your good and is committed to providing you what you need. And then daily take a STAND on this reality. Put the full weight of your

body on it. Stand on the rock of our God as your everlasting good, good Father. This is our God and who he is forever no matter how we feel and how dark life looks. Choose to believe it and stand on it every day.

May I leave with a practical tool to help you do this today? Will you meditate on and memorize Psalm 23? The images of shepherd and father have so much in common, and if you want to better understand Jesus as Everlasting Father, I don't know if there's a better way to get there than by understanding and believing the profound truths found in Psalm 23 describing how Jesus continually relates to us through the ups and downs of life. And if we would stand on the truths we find there and live our daily lives knowing they're true, what a different perspective we would have on life.

### ***Psalm 23***

***1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***

This is what its like to come home to our true Father and live in his house. Living in the house of the Lord, in the care of our good, good Father, we can know that no matter what we go through in life, he is always there with us and we will be surrounded with goodness and mercy, because that's who he is and how he always relates to his children.

And if there's anyone here today who still in that far country like the prodigal son, still trying to make it on your own without your father. Come home! He'll run to meet you and embrace you and welcome you into your true home as you come in simple repentance and trust in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

**A Prayer to Accept God's Gift of Salvation through Jesus:**

God, I've lived a life of rebellion against You and I want to change. Jesus, I believe  
You're the only One who can save me and change me.

I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead.

I surrender to You as my Lord and Savior and invite You to take charge of my life  
from here. Teach me to live life with You  
and like You by Your power. Amen.