

Devotion 46:

Our Father Is One With Jesus

John 1—21

Out of the 66 books in the Bible, John refers to God as “Father” more than any other book. At least 22 times in 21 chapters John uses the word “Father” to refer to our God. The intimate connection between the Father and the Son is unmistakable in this Gospel. This is what we discover about our Father in John. Read this list slowly:

1. He bears children. 1:13
2. He loved the world. 3:16
3. He sent Jesus to save, not to condemn, the world. 3:17
4. He loves the Son and has placed everything in His hands. 3:35
5. He is always at work to this very day. 5:17
6. He raises the dead and gives life. 5:21
7. He judges no one, but has entrusted judgment to His Son. 5:22
8. He has life in Himself. 5:26
9. He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. 5:27
10. He has placed His seal of approval on Jesus. 6:27
11. He wants us to believe in the One He has sent. 6:29
12. He gives us true bread from heaven. 6:32
13. He gives followers to Jesus. 6:37
14. He wills that all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life. 6:40
15. He gave His teaching to Jesus. 7:16
16. He is known by Jesus. 7:29
17. He is a witness who testifies for Jesus. 8:18
18. He is reliable. 8:26
19. He is with Jesus. 8:29
20. He is honored by Jesus. 8:49
21. He glorifies Jesus. 8:54
22. He is greater than all. 10:29
23. He will not allow any children to be snatched out of His hand. 10:29
24. He is one with Jesus. 10:30
25. He will honor those who serve Jesus. 12:26
26. He is believed when Jesus is believed. 12:44
27. He is seen when Jesus is seen. 12:45
28. He told Jesus what to say and how to say it. 12:50
29. He has many rooms in His house. 14:2
30. He is reached only through Jesus. 14:6
31. He is known if we know Jesus. 14:7
32. He is in Jesus; Jesus is in Him. 14:10
33. He does His work through Jesus. 14:10
34. He will love whoever loves His Son. 14:21
35. He will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name. 14:26
36. He is the gardener. 15:1

37. He cuts off unfruitful branches in Jesus.	15:2
38. He prunes fruitful branches in Jesus to make more fruitful.	15:2
39. He is hated by those who hate Jesus.	15:23
40. He is with Jesus now.	16:28
41. He is eternal life.	17:3
42. He protects us from the evil one.	17:15
43. He sanctifies us by His Word of truth.	17:17
44. His love for Jesus is in believers.	17:26
45. He is our Father and our God.	20:17

This last pronouncement, that God is our Father and Jesus is our brother, is made after Jesus has suffered, died, and risen from the dead. The barrier of sin and death was smashed down by the obedient Son, who thereby graciously granted to us adoption rights as children of God. (1:12) Thanks to Jesus, we can call God our Father.

In the Gospel of John our journey of discovering our Father arrives at a sense of completion. He says to us in effect, “Do you want to know Me? Then look at My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Do you want to know Me? Then get to know Him.”

Sadly, in the world today there exists an air of universalism. That is the belief that if one merely believes sincerely in a god, any god, then he will arrive at the same place in the end. People ask, “Why is it so important to believe in Jesus?” “How can Christianity be the only way to God?” The entire Scriptures, and especially John, tell us why:

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him as well.’” 14:6-7

In Colossians 1:19 Paul reiterates the point:

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

And this has been our Father’s plan all along as Ephesians 1:4-6 attests:

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”