

FOUNDATIONS: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

God the Father: Loving, Present, Faithful

Psalm 103

Introduction: Today we are thinking about one of the sweetest truths in all the Bible: **God the Father—loving, present, faithful.**

Now I know when you hear the word *father*, different emotions rise in different hearts. Some people smile, because they had a father who was steady, kind, and dependable. Some people sigh, because the word reminds them of distance, disappointment, or pain. And that is why Psalm 103 is such a needed passage. It does not tell us to interpret God by our earthly fathers. It teaches us to measure fatherhood by God.

And that is exactly where this message begins. God's character shapes our relationships with others. (Eph. 4:32; Lk. 6:36; 1 Jn. 4:11)

I. The Father's provision: (Psalm 103:1–5)

A. David's self-talk - Psalm 103:1–2

- David preaches to his own soul.
- Worship begins with remembering God's goodness.

B. The danger of forgetfulness Psalm 103:2

- One of the great enemies of worship is forgetfulness
- Spiritual forgetfulness weakens praise, trust and worship.

C. The deliberate listing

God's Benefits:

- Forgives all your iniquities
- Heals all your diseases
- Redeems your life from destruction
- Crowns you with steadfast love and mercy
- Satisfies you with good
- Renews your strength

The first blessing on David's list is forgiveness, because reconciliation with God is the fountain from which every other mercy flows.

D. The divine supply

- James 1:17; Romans 8:32

The Father who forgives is also the Father who provides

E. The soul's satisfaction -When the Father becomes your source:

- Relationships become gifts instead of gods.
- A satisfied soul is easier to live with.

The Father's provision frees us from expecting people to do what only God can do.

II. The Father's pardon: (Psalm 103:6–12)

A. The Lord's character

- David begins by declaring who God is: *righteous, just, merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*
- Exodus 34:6–7 This is the public revelation of God's holy nature

B. The divine comparison

- God does not deal with us according to our sins.
- David contrasts what we deserve with what God gives.

C. The distant removal

- Psalm 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west..."
- Our sins are not merely hidden; they are removed beyond measure.

D. The cross connection

- **The reason God can pardon sinners is found in Christ.** (2 Corinthians 5:21)

E. The forgiven response

- Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13 - *Forgiven people become forgiving people.*

III. The Father's pity: (Psalm 103:13–18)

A. The compassion - "*As a father shows compassion to his children...*" Psalm 103:13

B. The consideration

- "He knows our frame..." Psalm 103:14

C. The condition

- He remembers that we are dust.
- 1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 4:14–16

D. The constancy

- Psalm 103:17–18 "His steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting."

E. The character

Because the Father is compassionate; we must show compassion to others.

The Father's pity is meant to reproduce itself in the family of God.

IV. The Father's power: (Psalm 103:19–22)

A. The throne - David begins with God's absolute rule -Psalm 103:19

B. The dominion -His kingdom rules over all. God's authority is not partial or limited.

C. The doctrine - God's sovereignty comforts believers.

D. The dependence - Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 5:6–7 -*Peace comes when we let the Father be who He is.*

God the Father is loving, present, faithful, compassionate, forgiving, and sovereign. As His children, we are called to reflect His character in our relationships.