

Heb 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, that we may share His holiness.

The relationship that we have with our Heavenly Father is just that – as children of a good father.

He is our example of what a father should be.

Our Father is Caring

1Pe 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Be not dismayed
whate'er betide,
God will take care of
you!
Beneath His wings of
love abide,
God will take care of
you!

God will take care of
you,
Through every day o'er
all the way;
He will take care of
you;
God will take care of
you!

Our Father is Forgiving

Exo 32:8-10 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" (9) And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.

Exo 32:14 And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

Our Father is Faithful

Deu 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Rom 15:8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed

Our Father is Good

Psa 8:3-6 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, (4) what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? (5) You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. (6) You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

Jas 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Our Father is Impartial

1Pe 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

Our Father is Just

Act 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism (35) but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Our Father is Patient

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Our Father is Loving

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Our Father is Merciful

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

As we think of the few attributes
named that we see in God we need
to pause to think about how well we
earthly fathers have learned our
lesson.

The attributes we looked at are:

Caring, Forgiving, Faithful, Good,
Impartial, Just, Patient, Loving,
Merciful

How many of us take care of our
children's needs regardless of the
cost to us?

God gave his son to suffer and die for
us because He cared.

Are we Forgiving?

Luk 15:20-21 And he arose and came to his father. 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.'

Are we Faithful?

Jas 5:11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (12) But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Are we Good?

Luk 11:11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; (12) or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? (13) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Are we Impartial?

Gen 37:4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

Rom 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Are we Just?

Joh 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

2Co 5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

Are we Patient?

When is the last time we were angry?

At our wives, our children?

Eph 4:26 Be angry and do not sin; do not
let the sun go down on your anger,

Are we Loving?

1Pe 3:8-10 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (9) Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. (10) For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

Are we Merciful?

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, as God in Christ forgave you.

As we think of these great attributes
of our heavenly father and how far
short of these earthly fathers
sometimes fall, we need to
remember, we're all just learning
here on earth – but earthly fathers,
we have a heavenly father who loves
us.

Are you a child of God?

Gal 3:26-27 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1Pe 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,