

I. Introduction.

- A. There are many good fathers who are loved and respected, but every earthly father has his flaws.**
- B. Only one perfect father exists – the heavenly Father; the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- C. The perfect, heavenly Father wants to be our Father; he becomes our Father when we accept Christ.**

II. What It Means to Be a Child of God.

- A. I have FAMILY status; I'm a member of THE royal family; I'm a child of the King of kings.**
 - 1. All humans are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27), but only those who accept Christ are God's children (see John 8:42-47).**
 - 2. When you accept Christ you are born again (John 3:3) and become a child of God by adoption (see John 1:12 and Rom. 8:14-17).**
- B. I have unlimited ACCESS to the Father through prayer.**
- C. I'm active in God's TRAINING camp.**
 - 1. God has a race marked out for me (Heb. 12:1) and wants to train and equip me to finish the race.**
 - 2. I must be self-disciplined and disciplined by God.**
- D. I have the best of HELP in times of need (Matt. 7:9-11; 1 Pet. 5:7; and Matt. 6:25-33).**
- E. I have ETERNAL hope (Rom. 5:1,2), a hope that cannot and will not disappoint me (Rom. 5:5).**
- F. I have RESPONSIBILITIES.**
 - 1. Love God (Matt. 22:34-36) – spend time with him.**
 - 2. Honor God (Prov. 3:9 and 1 Cor. 6:20) – recognize God's character and respond by revering, trusting, worshiping, obeying, and serving him.**
 - 3. Imitate God (Eph. 5:1,2 and 1 Pet. 1:13-16).**

III. Conclusion.

- A. The perfect heavenly Father has done so much for us.**
- B. Let's do our best to love, honor, and imitate him.**