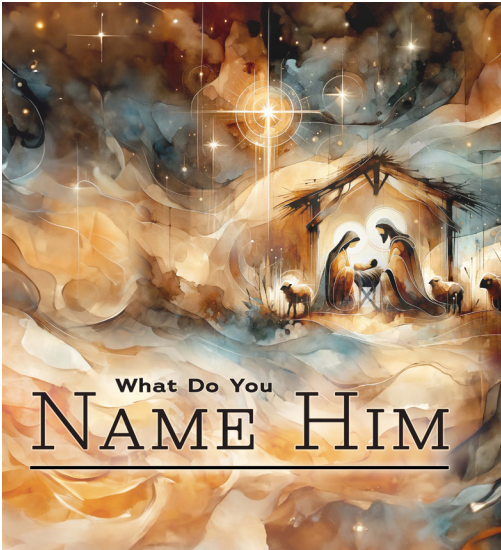


What Do You
NAME HIM

Sermon Growth Guide

December 15, 2024
Everlasting Father



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What Do You Name Him - Everlasting Father

Hebrews 1:1-12

Key Verse: Hebrews 1:3a

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”

Big Idea: Jesus and the Father are one and the same.

Foundations

This week we are in the middle of our Advent series What Do You Name Him? Isaiah prophesies in Isaiah 9:6 that a son will be born who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We talk during Christmas of Jesus being a baby, what it is to be fully human, or the implications of his birth, death and resurrection. We rarely acknowledge that this baby is the same as our Father or that Joseph and Mary were cradling their Father.

Jesus as the Son is the same as the Father - he has the same knowledge, the same creativity, the same Glory due Him. Pastor Tim mentions that “Scripture would never order us, or the angels, to worship someone that isn’t God! Jesus is worshipped. Jesus is God.”

When the Wise Men came to Herod and asked to worship Jesus, they had no hesitation that worshipping Jesus was both expected and natural. Jesus, being One with our Father, deserves all Glory, Honor and Praise. As our Father, He will be with us, stand behind us and fight for us. Our relationship with Him holds us steady. Regardless of our relationship with our earthly father, we are loved, accepted and fathered by Jesus for all eternity.

Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Hebrews 1:1-12. The writer doesn’t mince words about the glory and worship due Jesus. How might this have sounded to people at the time? At Christmas, do you tend to only ascribe infantile characteristics to Jesus? Or do you think through the way He was worshipped even at the beginning of His earthly life?

Applying God’s Word

No matter what your relationship with your earthly father is, Jesus longs to be named Everlasting Father by you. How does thinking of Jesus as your Father change your relationship with Him?

Witnessing God’s Word

There are multiple images of fathers in our culture, many of which are negative. How can you work to redeem the image of a Good Father? How can you talk to others about the qualities of Father evident in Jesus the Son? As you focus on the birth of Christ this week, take note of the worship due Him. Jesus is your Everlasting Father.

It is easy for children to lose track of what this month is all about. A few first graders were debating the meaning of Christmas. One said, "I know what Christmas is about—it's when all good kids get presents!" "No, no," said the second, "Christmas is Santa's birthday." The third piped up, "It's not Santa's birthday, you goof! Christmas is when Santa delivered the baby Jesus in his sleigh!" Almost. Christmas is like that, isn't it? It's super familiar, but it is also so familiar we catch a surprise here and there. Something hits us and we suddenly ask ourselves, "Is that what this is about?" I mean, the priorities thing, like, "Is that what this is about? Glitter and powdered sugar and fudge? Isn't it about Jesus?" But even when it is about Jesus. Do we get it? Isaiah says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) We think, oh yeah, that's about Jesus. But what does it mean to call Jesus Everlasting Father? We might have some more thinking to do. I thought Jesus was the Son and God was the Father. Can we call Jesus our Everlasting Father? Can we join Isaiah and name Him that? As we ask What Do You Name Him, I want to talk about naming Jesus Everlasting Father in two ways this morning. The first is theological, the second will be more practical and personal.

First, theologically. How can Isaiah talk about the coming Messiah, Jesus, as Everlasting Father? How can we sing that about Jesus at Christmas? The Holy Trinity is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call the Father "Father." We call the Son "Son." We call the Holy Spirit...I think you get it. But how do we think about Jesus as our Everlasting Father?

It's one of his names in Isaiah's famous list: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Well, we have to approach the mystery of the Trinity—how God is both three and one at the same time, one God

in Three Persons. The very word, "Trinity" is a combination of the words "triple" and "unity." God is one. The distinctives within the Trinity emerge in the relationships between the Persons. The Father calls Jesus "Son" and Jesus calls God "Father" and they both call the Spirit the Spirit. The distinctives emerge in their relationships, but with regard to all that is outside of God, all that God created, God is one. This is a mystery. If you could explain God, would that be God? Far from being a source of embarrassment, the Christian doctrine of the Trinity actually proves the reality of God's revelation. God is beyond our understanding, and the Trinity is a standing illustration of that, proving that we did not make this up. God has revealed Himself to us and God is beyond our understanding.

But because we recognize that all three of the Persons are the same Godhead, on one level, anything you could say about one of them should apply to any of the others. They are all together God. Take the act of creation. Is only God the Father the Creator? No. All three were present at creation. The Father God was there, and the Father God spoke the Word (that's Jesus, the Son) and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. This comes through in our passage today also. Jesus was at creation. The angels watched as Jesus created, along with the Father and the Spirit. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe." (Hebrews 1:1-2) Later in the passage, God says of Jesus the Son, "He also says, 'In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.'" (Hebrews 1:10) Jesus laid the foundations of the earth. Did you notice that Scripture is quoted as what "God says"? That's important. So also is the charge that the angels must worship Jesus. "And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's



angels worship him.” (Hebrews 1:6) Scripture would never order us, or the angels, to worship someone that isn’t God! Jesus is worshipped. Jesus is God. As God, Jesus shares in all the same qualities. The Son is not less than the Father. “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:3) All three are Creator God. Colossians says of Jesus, “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:16-17). Jesus is every bit the Creator God.

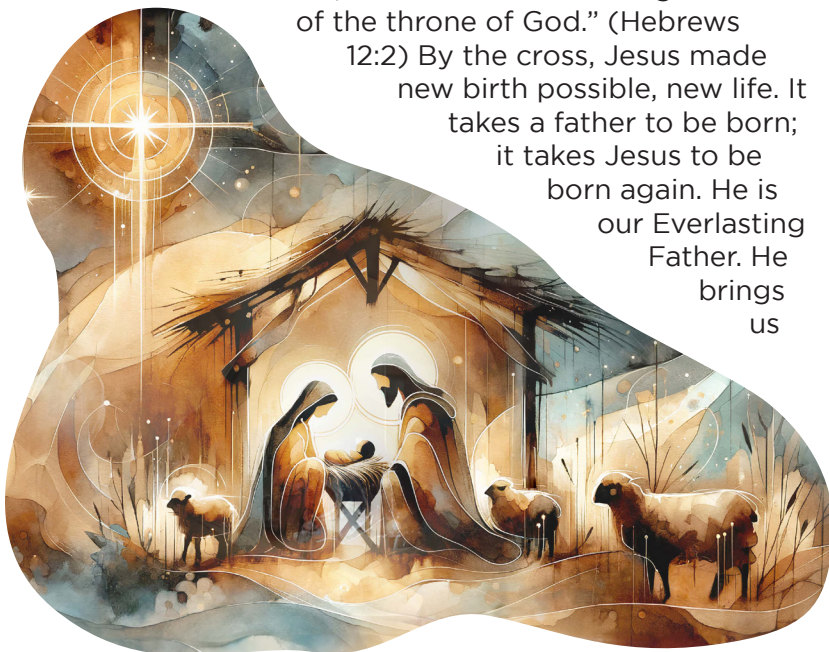
So, anything you say of one is true of all three. They are Holy, Holy, Holy, One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But how is Jesus “Everlasting Father”? Does Jesus exhibit “father” qualities? Jesus can be our Father. We can name Him Everlasting Father with Isaiah, and here’s how. Jesus is the progenitor of your faith and salvation; Jesus is the author and maker and head of your new life. Hebrews calls Jesus “the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:2) “Pioneer” in Greek is archegos, which is like the leader, the founder, the originator. A Father, a patriarch, is an originator. Jesus “fathered” your salvation if you are born again. Once Jesus told a man named Nicodemus he had to be born again in John 3. Nicodemus was like, how? How? It can only happen because Jesus made it possible to have new life in Him through faith—to be born again. If you are in Christ, you are among those, “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before

him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2) By the cross, Jesus made new birth possible, new life. It takes a father to be born; it takes Jesus to be born again. He is our Everlasting Father. He brings us

new life. He keeps and sustains us. He protects and shelters us. He also disciplines us. Jesus looks after His children.

So, yes, we can name Jesus our Everlasting Father. Jesus and the Father are one and the same. That’s why Jesus told His disciples, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (John 14:9) Jesus is the exact representation of the glory of God. That’s because Jesus is God. “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.” (Hebrews 1:3) So Joseph and Mary, looking down on their little child in the manger were actually looking down on the face of their own Everlasting Father. You thought your family was odd! I think it was Joseph who wrote that song, “I Am My Own Grandpa.” Or maybe Jesus wrote it. Joseph is the only man in history to say, “I am the father of my Father.” The baby is the Father; the Godhead born to dwell with us. That’s a little theology for you this morning. Christmas isn’t just fudge and candycanes. This is the most profound theological claim imaginable; no other religion makes it: God became Man; the Creator entered the creation, and suffered, and died, to save it.

Let’s think about it more practically now. Jim Daly is the President of Focus on the Family. He figured himself the last person to fit that job. Jim’s upbringing was as far from healthy family as you could get. He grew up in Compton with four sisters and brothers. When he was five years old his father came home drunk, took a hammer out of the kitchen drawer, and started busting holes into the walls shouting, “I’m gonna kill your mother when she gets home.” His mother didn’t come home, but Jim watched the police take his father away in handcuffs. They divorced and his mother remarried, but soon died of cancer. The stepdad, who was himself an abusive drunk, walked out on them all on the day of



the funeral. Foster families were not much better. This is Jim Daly's family history. How does a guy like that wind up the head of Focus on the Family?

He played football in High School. On Father-Son night each player got introduced on the field with his father behind him, hands on the boy's shoulders. Jim stood alone. "Billy Moore and father, Doug." "Evan White and father, Karl." "Jim Daly." Silence. One of the coaches invited him to camp with The Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The speaker got up and said: "Has your father ever let you down?" Jim thought, are you kidding? "Has your worldly father ever let you down? Have your parents ever let you down? I want to introduce you to someone who will never let you down. You can have a relationship with Him that never ends and never falls flat. He will be with you through thick and thin. He will stand behind you when you need him. He will fight for you when you're out of strength. He will save you when you are out of options. He will show up in the dark of night when you are lost and confused, and He will meet you in the morning with the rising sun. I want to introduce you to Jesus. He is your spiritual father; in fact the Bible calls Him the Everlasting Father. Your father on earth may let you down. Jesus won't." Jim gave his life to Christ. On Senior Night he was on the field being announced again. The players lined up with their parents behind them. Jim stood by himself. Down the line they came, "John Boyer and parents Dick and Carol." Down to him: "Jim Daly." But this time it was different. Into that silence that used to crush him, into the silence came a word. The Holy Spirit spoke: "I'm right here, Jim. I'm right here." Jesus was behind him, his Everlasting Father. Jim still says he could feel the hands on his shoulders.

have been let down. If you are are father, you are letting someone down. It's part of the gig—along with all the good stuff, the love and support and strength, but no father is perfect. And these earthly relationships with all their imperfections only strengthen our thirst for what we truly need, the relationship we truly need. Your heart longs to know your Heavenly Father; to be loved and accepted and fathered by Him for all eternity without end. Jesus is Everlasting Father. Jesus says if you knew me you would know my Father. Jesus is the only one with the authority to bring you into the household of God and give you the Father your heart longs after. "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12) By faith in Jesus you are adopted as God's own son, God's own daughter. Your heart finally knows the fulfillment of its longing for home. Would you be saved today? Would you name Jesus Everlasting Father? It says "to all", to all who received, to all who believed in His name. That could be you. You could receive. You could believe in His name. Only call out to Him today, ask Him, receive Him—name Him. His name is Jesus.

Here is Jesus. Jesus who said "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18). Earthly fathers are not perfect. We let each other down sometimes. If you have a father, you

