PATEROLOGY & PETITION

The Doctrine of the Father and Devotion to Him

Dr. Matt Jones, Pastor, Del Rey Church

I. Creation

(Genesis 1-3, cf. Mt. 13:38, Jn.8:44, 1 Jn.3:10)

II. Christ

(John 1:1-14; 9:1-11:44)

III. Calling

(Mt. 6:7-15, Lk.11:1-4; cf. Jn.1:12; Rm.8:15, 23, 9:4; Ga.4:5; Ep.1:5, 1Jn.3:1)

IV. Consistency

(Luke 11:5 – 10)

V. Conclusion

A. Our Father in _____

B. Our Father through the _____

C. Our Father in _____

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

Icebreaker: Has there ever definitively been an all-time best Father's Day for you? If yes, please explain. If not, share about how Father's Day is for you.

1. On Sunday we discussed Paterology, that is, the person and work of God the Father. We also looked at the works of the triune God in creation and how human sin made us children of the devil, which is the bad news, but we listened to the good news (the gospel) that explains/proclaims how God the Father sent the Son to rescue us and by the work of the Spirit adopts us into the family of God. Read 1 John 3:1-10 and discuss the grace of God in the doctrine of adoption.

2. In salvation, God the Father claims us as His very own children through the work of the Son and by the power of the Spirit. As children of God we get a new life. What are some things you know were new when you came to Christ? Read Romans 6:6-14 and discuss the new freedom we receive in salvation as God's children, experiencing the life of Christ and liberty from sin's bondage. How are you experiencing this power in your life? In what ways do you find sin's power still seeking to tempt and enslave you (Gn.4:7)?

3. Sunday was Father's Day. For good or bad, in what ways are you like your earthly biological or adoptive/surrogate father? If you are a parent, in what ways do you strive to be different? If you are not a parent, do you have fears or desires to be a parent?

4. Though earthly fathers can fail us, our heavenly Father never does. He is perfectly faithful, righteous, patient, gracious and loving. 1 John 3:11 says, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are." Discuss practically how the Father's love for you and the example of His Son impacts your daily life.

5. Spend time in prayer thanking God for His fatherly care for us in Christ and the empowerment of the Spirit for life, godliness and mission.