

Our Father

- I. Ways of viewing God: judge, distant, energy, etc. illustrate.

- II. What does the Bible say?
 - A. God is PARENT.
 - B. Man is God's child.

- III. What does "parent" mean?
 - A. To self. (Tie in with above notion of God; illustrate.)
 - B. What's your desire as a parent?
 1. To give life, physical and spiritual.
 2. To love through everything. (Personal example.)
 3. Not necessarily the same as your own parent, but the parent you want to be.
 - C. Why should God be any different?
 1. We are made in God's image (quote Genesis).
 2. Learn the heart of God, the parent, through loving others as a parent.

- IV. What is your response during times of trouble?
 - A. Self as parent:
 1. Do we kick out our children because they make a mistake?
 2. We want to help.
 3. Limitation: we can perhaps dominate aspects of their external life, but we cannot dominate their internal life.
 - B. God is in the same position:
 1. People complain that God doesn't care.
 - a) Do we ever tell Him the problem?
 - b) Do we ever open our heart?
 - 1) We are often afraid of the junk inside ourselves.
 - 2) We are often afraid that God won't like us.
 - 3) But God already knows it all.

2. Put yourself in the same position: what is your response to your child?
- C. Conclusion: God cares but we must receive him.
1. We must open up ourselves to let God in – share things, talk to God.
 2. God is a God of love. That means he loves each of us. It's not a generalized "them" or "mankind", but a personal "you", "me".
 3. God is your parent. God is my parent.

That means he loves you.