

## FATHER – CALL NO MAN FATHER

### *Matt 23:6-12*

*6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' 8 But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. NKJV*

Many folks quote the above passage to support their charge that the present apostolic wineskin of father and son is unbiblical. **IN ADDITION THEY VEHEMENTLY DENY THE USE OF THE TERM FATHER FOR ANY HUMAN BEING.**

An examination of scriptures proves that the use of the term father was not restricted to God.

## BIOLOGICAL FATHERS WERE CALLED FATHER.

### *Gen 22:7*

*7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son."*

*Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" NKJV*

### *Gen 27:34*

*34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me — me also, O my father!" NKJV*

### *Gen 48:18*

*18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." NKJV*

## SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN WHICH PEOPLE WERE CALLED FATHER:

- **ELISHA – ELIJAH (ELIJAH WAS CALLED FATHER)**

### *2 Kings 13:14*

*14 Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" NKJV*

- **JOB WAS A FATHER TO THE POOR**

### *Job 29:16*

*16 I was a father to the poor,  
And I searched out the case that I did not know. NKJV*

- **ELIAKIM WAS INSTALLED AS FATHER**

### *Isa 22:20-21*

*'Then it shall be in that day,  
That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah;  
21 I will clothe him with your robe  
And strengthen him with your belt;  
I will commit your responsibility into his hand.  
He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
And to the house of Judah. NKJV*

- **JOSEPH WAS A FATHER TO PHARAOH.**

**Gen 45:8**

*8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. NKJV*

#### **PATRIARCHS ARE CALLED FATHER**

##### **1. ABRAHAM**

- **STEPHEN CALLED ABRAHAM FATHER**

**Acts 7:2**

*2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, NKJV*

- **PAUL CALLS ABRAHAM FATHER**

**Rom 4:1**

*4 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? NKJV*

**Rom 4:12**

*2 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised. NKJV*

- **RICH MAN CALLED ABRAHAM FATHER**

**Luke 16:24-25**

*24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. NKJV*

**Luke 16:30**

*30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' NKJV*

- **JESUS CALLED ABRAHAM FATHER**

**John 8:56**

*56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." NKJV*

##### **2. ISAAC**

- **PAUL CALLS ISAAC FATHER**

**Rom 9:10-11**

*10 And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac NKJV*

##### **3. JACOB**

- **SAMARITAN WOMAN CALLED JACOB FATHER**

**John 4:12**

*12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" NKJV*

#### **SPIRITUAL FATHERING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- **PETER CALLED MARK HIS SON:**

**1 Peter 5:13-14**

*13 She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son. NKJV*

- **PAUL CLAIMED TO BE A SPIRITUAL FATHER.**

**1 Cor 4:15-16**

*15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. NKJV*

**1. PAUL AND TIMOTHY**

**1 Tim 1:2**

*2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: NKJV*

**1 Tim 1:18-20**

*18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, NKJV*

**2 Tim 1:2**

*2 To Timothy, a beloved son:*

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. NKJV*

**2 Tim 2:2**

*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. NKJV*

**2. PAUL AND TITUS**

**Titus 1:4**

*4 To Titus, a true son in our common faith:*

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. NKJV*

**3. PAUL AND ONESIMUS**

**Philem 10-11**

*10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, 11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. NKJV*

**4. JOHN SAW HIMSELF AS A FATHER TO THOSE HE WAS SHEPHERDING.**

**1 John 2:1**

*2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. NKJV*

**JOHN WROTE TO FATHERS THAT WERE IN HIS CONGREGATION**

**1 John 2:13**

*13 I write to you, fathers,*

*Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. NKJV*

Thus we see that "father" is used in the Old and New Testament both in the context of biology and spiritual oversight.

**WHAT WAS JESUS SAYING?**

1. When we examine the context of Matt. 23 it is about the Pharisees. Jesus was chastising the Pharisees. They used titular authority to assert superiority over the people and assume authority over them. **THEY COULD NOT SERVE THE GRACE OF FATHER TO THE PEOPLE.** (*11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*) Jesus was lambasting titular authority. This must not be seen literally but figuratively as usurping the fatherhood of God.

The chief president (nasi) of the Sanhedrin was called "Prince," and the vice president "Father of the court (Ab Bet Din)". Jesus was alluding to the

hierarchical and titular structure of the Sanhedrin that usurped authority over the people, stole the honour that was due to God, deceived the people into having an extraordinary and high opinion of the Pharisees and Scribes that robbed them of their dependence on God.

2. Jesus was using hyperbole (exaggeration) to highlight the high-mindedness and cult status of the Pharisee. They had now added to the law and were operating not as representatives of the heavenly father but equal to God himself by forming their own laws and asserting dominion over the people.

Note that it also seems as if he is prohibiting the use of the word teacher. But he appointed his disciples to teach:

***Matt 28:18-20***

*18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. NKJV*

He gave teachers:

***Eph 4:11***

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, NKJV*

Paul was appointed a teacher.

These appointments are by Christ himself. Therefore his chastisement must not be taken literally but figuratively as a criticism of titular authority that misrepresents the heavenly father. **THE PHARISEES WERE MISREPRESENTING GOD AND THUS IT WAS WRONG TO CALL THEM FATHER.**

3. He is not denying earthly fathers. He was stating that God the father has no equals and stands alone as Father in heaven.

**THE USE OF THE TERM FATHER FOR THE "SET MAN" OF THE HOUSEHOLD MUST BE SEEN IN THE SENSE THAT HE REPRESENTS THE HEAVENLY FATHER WITHOUT BEING EQUAL TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER.**

**OUR TRUE FATHER IS GOD IN HEAVEN AND ALL ASPECTS OF FATHERHOOD COME FROM HIM.**

Call the leader of the household whatever both of you are comfortable with, but recognize that through his words – doctrine – grace is delivered to you. **IT IS THE WORD THAT HE DELIVERS THAT FATHERS YOU – FATHER MEANS NOURISHER.**

Jesus told Peter to "feed my sheep" – nourish my sheep. Peter fathered the flock by feeding the flock.