

## Lesson 2: Becoming Your Father

This lesson examines what God did to become your Father.

### **Part 1: God sent Jesus to die for us**

*Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.*

**--Romans 3:24**

To become your Father, God had to deal with the problem of sin in your life. Think of it as going into a courtroom. After all the evidence is presented, the jury delivers its verdict. As you saw previously, you deserved the spiritual death penalty for your sins. Before becoming a Christian, you disregarded His instructions for living.

Humanly speaking, there was no way you could avoid paying the penalty. And, since Romans 3:23 tells us “all have sinned,” no one else could pay it for you. But God loved us so much that He sent His only Son into the world.

He was the only sinless Man who ever walked on the face of this Earth. Because He had no sin of His own, He could pay the penalty for all of ours. He did so by allowing Himself to be crucified on the cross. A man who did no wrong died so that He could reconcile us with the Father. Jesus paid the price for us to be set free from the death sentence we had received for our sins.

### **Deeper Study**

1. What fact do each of the following verses reveal about what God did to become your Father?  
Romans 3:24: “Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

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Romans 5:8: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

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1 Corinthians 15:3-4: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

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Ephesians 5:2: “Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

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1 Peter 3:18: “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

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2. As you considered these verses, which thoughts made you the most thankful to God?

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3. Which verses helped you most to see the love of a Father in God? Explain.

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4. How have these verses changed your view of Christ's sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Part 2: God gave us a new life**

*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

**--Romans 6:4**

Through Christ's death and resurrection, God took care of the spiritual death penalty that you deserved. The inclination to do wrong is something each of us inherited from Adam. But to become your Father, He had to do more than relieve this debt. God had to do something about that sin nature, too. Simply paying for our sin would not give us His spiritual likeness. To truly be His children, we must have the same kind of nature.

Human wisdom cannot adequately explain how God removed the old sin nature and gave us His divine nature. But He did so by making us one with Christ when He died on the cross. God placed your sin nature in His Son. When He died, the "old man" that controlled you died with Him. After burial, a new man arose through Jesus' resurrection.

However, being changed in what we are doesn't instantly change all that we do. We can still sin. But here's the good news: We can also *not sin*. As God's instruments, we can yield our lives to Him. Thus, we are no longer slaves to sin. We may make mistakes from time to time, but we don't have to allow sin to dominate us.

### **Deeper Study**

1. Look up each of the following Scripture passages. Write out a brief description of the truth described in these verses about the new life God has given you.

Romans 6:2-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the truths that you discovered mean the most? Why?

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3. Children watch and learn from their earthly fathers. Explain how you can watch and learn from your heavenly Father.

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4. Look up 1 John 1:8. Explain whether or not you can sin with God as your Father.

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5. Read 1 John 2:3. What does knowing God as Father give you the power to do?

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