

“Father to the fatherless”

Boun Thorne’s Story (Video)

At the center of what we know about God’s nature, is His special awareness and love for the forsaken, and the abandoned...

Psalm 68:5-6 God is a Father to the fatherless...He makes a home for the lonely.

Deuteronomy 10:18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner.

Psalm 27:10 Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will take me in.

Isaiah 49:15

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Jeremiah 49:11

I will protect the orphans who remain among you. Your widows, too, can depend on me for help.

Romans 8:15

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful...Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

He calls us out of our comfort and privilege to action through that love.

James 1:27

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

1. We Confuse Our Efforts in Trying to Deal with What Threatens Our Personal Security and Comfort with What Is Important/Necessary/Godly...

- We get distracted with what the world says must be looked at, fretted over, and dealt with...
- **We are so consumed with the fears of “What if” that we can’t see “What is” with those around us...**
- I’ve done this with OCC this year...

2. Devotion to Family Becomes Sinfully Excessive When We Lose Connection With and Fail to “Take in” the Forsaken and Abandoned...

- **“Refusing to let the world corrupt you” means:**
 - Not buying into the worldly mantra of “I have to do what’s best for me and my family”
 - Refusing to be distracted or fooled by fear and anxiety
 - Refusing to forget or ignore the needs of the forsaken or abandoned
- **Your True Family is Larger Than Your Blood Relatives**

Luke 8:19-21

Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they couldn't get to him because of the crowd. Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to see you." Jesus replied, "My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God's word and obey it."



1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

Put Our Father's Love into Action!

1. Operation Christmas Child

*While I looked through the items in the shoebox...I asked myself, "Who did this, Who sent me this gift?" Because they don't know who I am...And then I remember the teacher saying, "**this is from the people who love God...and they want to bless us with this gift...**"*

The shoebox showed me that even though my father didn't love me or want me...there's a Father in heaven that loves me so much He can make someone who don't even know who I am...to show me that I am loved and I am valuable...My earthly father didn't love me, but there's a heavenly Father that does...

Boun Thorne's Story
Operation Christmas Child

- [COTC's OCC shoebox goal link \(500 boxes in 30 days\)](#)

2. "Taking in" the Lonely for Thanksgiving & Christmas

- Widows & Widowers
- Students Far From Home
- Poor, Homeless, Family-less
- Shut-ins & Sickly (Going to them)

3. Look for the Opportunities this Evil World's Circumstances Produces

- I have asked myself... "Why do politics bring out such passion – even the ugly -- in people?"
- Fear & Anxiety of losing something...our comfort, our security, our rights...
 - What if we faced the future not as residents, trying to protect our home, investments, and futures?
 - What if we faced the future as visiting citizens from another kingdom...and our eyes, emotions, and energy were focused on the opportunities to point those who have lost everything in this world to another world, to another "president", to an everlasting hope...?