

BtW

Between two worlds

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“Abba, Father”



I can't keep up. It's dizzying to think about how communication technology has changed in just the past few decades. From email, to instant messaging, to texting, to social media, we are living in the midst of a communication revolution.

Yet this is not the greatest revolution in communication that this world has ever seen.

In Matthew 6:9, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray saying, “Our Father in heaven.”

This is the greatest revolution in communication the world has seen. Ever.

Fourteen times in the Old Testament, God is referred to as a Father to Israel. For instance, Deuteronomy 32:6 says, “Is not he your father, who created you, who made you an established you?” Even though this language is sometimes used before Jesus, it is rare and general.

When Jesus comes, this radically changes.

At least sixty times in the gospels, Jesus refers to God as, “Father.” This address expresses the intimacy, confidence, and love that Jesus, the Son of God, has with his Father. In the sermon on the mount, when he teaches his disciples to pray, he teaches us to pray the same way, saying, “Our Father in heaven.”

When we pray this way, we are reminded that God is our creator and king. He is the source of our lives both physically and spiritually. It also reminds us of our spiritual adoption. Romans

8:15 says, "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" Abba is an Aramaic term, that means something like, "dearest father." It reminds us of the gospel reality that God, in his grace, has made us part of his eternal family, and given us a new name, a new Spirit, and new privileges through Christ.

Our adoption means that we are as much a part of God's family as Jesus is.

Let that sink in. This is radical stuff. Addressing God as our Father reminds us of the affection and attention that we can expect from God when we address him. It also reminds us of the authority that he has in our lives, even more so, because he is, "in heaven."

The greatest revolution of communication ever, is that in Christ, we can address God as, "our Father."

This change is at the very heart of the gospel itself. It is only possible through the person and work of Jesus.

So call on God today, but when you do, call him...

... Abba, Father.