



# Lewiston Church of Christ June 19, 2022

 **MESSENGER** *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*

## Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM  
Sun. Day/Evening Groups  
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

### MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

### ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

### DEACONS

Education: Rick Richardson  
Finance: Tom Hill  
Outreach: Mark Whittaker

### AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman  
Custodian: Hannah Bolm  
Fellowship: Bieren  
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes  
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns  
Secretary: Renee Hill  
Technology: Eric Kjorness  
Technology: Cody Dawes

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www.lewistonchurchofchrist.org

**FB:**  
Class & Sermons online  
Check email notification

**Monthly Service Schedules:**  
Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.



# The Fatherhood of God

Since it's Father's Day Sunday, let's get theological.

God is not literally flesh and blood or male or female. He is Spirit. Yet, God's "Fatherhood" is a deeply biblical concept. In the Old Testament, Israel is often referred to as God's "children." Moses told Pharaoh, "This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son" (Exodus 4:22). The prophet Hosea spoke the word of the Lord, saying, "Out of Egypt I called my son." (Hosea 11:1-4).

It is Jesus who took the fatherhood of God to lofty heights, like no other teacher ever. In John's gospel, Jesus called God, "Father" 107 times and referred to Himself as God's "Son", 30 times. In a letter, John wrote, "Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us that we should be called the children of God" (1 John 3:1). According to Paul, having received a spirit of adoption (rather than slavery), we can cry out, "**Abba! Father**" (Romans 8:15). It does not get more personal than that.

Sadly, some angry modern theologians resent seeing masculinity placed in a positive or loving light, especially in God's name. Their attempts to rewrite God's Word to suit changing sensitivities are ill-conceived. Much is lost in the phrase, "*Our Parent who art in heaven...*" Both Testaments affirm that God loves us and disciplines us like a dad. He is also our ultimate Protector and Provider. He does not want to be called, "our "significant other."

No Muslim can refer to Allah as "*Father*." The Qur'an forbids believers from saying "*Allah has begotten a son.*" ("*Allah forbid*," Sura 2:116). It calls those who refer to any "son" of Allah as "perverse." (Sura 9:30). By contrast, when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He told them to address the Eternal, Immortal, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Creator, Redeemer, and Sovereign of the universe as "**Our Father**" (Matthew 6:9). This affirms our adopted status as members of God's family.

Joel Solliday