

# HE *Shall Be* CALLED

## Week 3 He's Our Everlasting Father

1. Everlasting Father is the name for Jesus that we are looking at this week. Do you think that your view of your earthly father affects how you see your heavenly Father? How would you characterize your relationship with your physical father, good, bad or indifferent? How has that shaped the person you are now? Name one good and one bad characteristic that you think you have now that comes from your physical father. What good characteristics do you have now that you attribute to your heavenly Father? If there were needs that you feel were unmet in your life from your physical father, do you think they can be met by your heavenly Father?
2. What are the characteristics of our heavenly Father that Pastor Rick mentioned in his sermon? Which one of those impacts you the most? Why? For those of you who are fathers, which one do you think you are best at with your own kids? Which one do you think you need work on?  
*Answer—The four characteristics that Pastor Rick mentioned are: 1. Our Everlasting Father never has a bad moment; 2. Our Everlasting Father is never emotionally, physically, or intellectually lacking; 3. Our Everlasting Father is never cruel and always loving; and 4. Our Everlasting Father will never turn His back on His children and allow them to suffer eternal separation from Him.*
3. The fourth of the characteristics was that our heavenly Father will never turn His back on His children and send them to go to hell. How is this different from what many churches teach? Read John 6:37-40 and John 10: 25-30. Do you think in these passages that Jesus is teaching that He will never send believers to hell? Does this mean that God will allow His children to “live however they want” without consequences? What are the consequences of trying to “live however you want” as a Christian? Read Hebrews 12:5-11. What does God do with every child? Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. How did God judge those believers in Corinth who were abusing the Lord's supper?  
*Answer—This could be one of the most contentious and misunderstood issues in Christianity: Can a believer lose their salvation once they have been born into God's family; can they be unborn? At Grace, we believe the answer to this question is a resounding No! The passages in John clearly teach that a believer can “never perish”, as Jesus clearly says. The main*

*objection to this idea is that a believer can trust in Christ and then live in rebellion to God and still go to heaven. Do people seriously think that God would allow one of His children to do this? Is God such an inept parent that He does not know how to deal with a disobedient child and that His only recourse would be to kick them out of His family? What does a parent who loves his child do when they are disobedient? Kick them out of the family? No, they discipline them, they find ways to make their child miserable, whether that is a spanking or time out or grounding. God knows what each of us desires in life and He is in total control over whether we will be happy or not. He can make us totally miserable and as in the case with the Corinthians, He can take our health away from us as a form of discipline or if he desires, take us home at any time He chooses. A believer may try to “live however they want”, but just like any good parent who loves their child, God will make sure that they are miserable in the attempt. If this topic is an issue in your group, Pastor Mark would love to come and do a one week study on this topic in your group and answer any questions you might have.*

4. What are the three ways we can demonstrate our Father’s love to others at this Christmas season? Which one is the hardest for you to do? Commit yourself to do the one that is the hardest for you to do during this holiday season, it is the one that would cause the most spiritual growth in your life. If you have not already, pick one of these that you could do as a group.
- Answer—The three ways are: 1. Settle an offense with an apology or forgiveness; 2. Sacrifice financially for someone in need, and 3. Serve in a ministry or outreach here at Grace Church.*