



**NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*Connecting people with God  
within authentic community  
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Tony Hodge – The Fatherhood of God

**Key Text: Psalm 103, esp vv 8-14**

In the Psalm I read, David, a shepherd, a king, great warrior, renowned musician and poet, captures some of the essential love of Father God which is both an example to all parents and inspiration to us all in regard to the amazing love of God for us.

Some people imagine God as an old man with a big stick always ready to beat you up, to find fault and to condemn. Portraying God as an angry old man in the sky just looking for an excuse to smite you is completely wrong. God doesn't want or need to scare people into some kind of zombie-like obedience, instead he loves them until they can't help but love back. The story all through the Bible is of a compassionate loving God who forgives again and again, gives second, third, multiple chances for His people to turn to him and love him back.

The Good News of Jesus – the "Gospel" is one of unconditional love poured out for you. It's not the gospel of the soap operas where sons and daughters are rejected with "you're dead to me". Instead it's a gospel of sacrifice and a life laid down so others can live.

God's love for you stands ready to receive you into His family, not reject you out of spite. And to make sure there is no barrier between us He sent His Son Jesus to show what he's really like and make a way for us to come into His family. Will you respond to God's love by loving Him back, wanting to please Him just because of His great love?

**Study & Application**

Read all of Psalm 103 and then discuss these questions:

Which parts most deeply speak to you of God's father-love?

How does David compare God's nature to our own?

How does the Psalm address God's unconditional love to people?

What response is required from us?

Does this change the nature of His love to something more conditional?

**Prayer**

How can we grow in Father-like love? Pray for each other in this regard and also for those whose earthly fathers have let them down, that they may see true fatherhood in God.