



FATHER–SON WINESKIN

A KINGDOM MODEL OF SPIRITUAL FAMILY

INTRODUCTION

The Church is more than a gathering (ecclesia); it is God's holy nation and family (1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:19). The **Father–Son Wineskin** is not a religious system but a **God-ordained relational model**. It reflects God's order where spiritual fathers raise sons to maturity, identity, and inheritance — not through control, but by grace, love, and discipleship. As in the natural family — with a **father, mother, and children** — it is in the spiritual house, a relational framework for birthing purposes and legacy. This wineskin is rooted in **relationship, not title**. God is restoring this model to heal the orphan spirit, align the Church, and fulfil destiny. "Creation waits in eager expectation for the revealing of the sons of God." — *Romans 8:19*.

FATHERS AND SONS IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Fathers have a higher rank than sons; this is a relational ranking for function. The distinction is **relational and functional**, not hierarchical or oppressive.

- A **spiritual father** is more than a preacher or mentor. He walks closely with his sons, **disciplining them, imparting grace and wisdom**, and training them to reflect the nature and mission of Christ (1 Corinthians 4:15-17).
- The relationship is not complex; the leader is a "father," and the believers that submit to him are "sons"- not through coercion but through covenant and love (Malachi 4:5-6).
- As with all relationships, there are **true and false expressions**. There are **good and evil fathers**, just as there are sincere and insincere followers. Discernment is key (1 John 4:1) "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

WHAT ABOUT "CALL NO MAN FATHER"?

Many have raised concerns based on **Matthew 23:8-12**, where Jesus said, "**But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

- On the basis of this scripture, some people stubbornly declare that it is forbidden to call a spiritual leader "father".
- Some argue this forbids using the term for spiritual leaders. But let's rightly divide the Word.

CONTEXT IS KING

The entire chapter of **Matthew 23** is a direct rebuke of the **Pharisees and Scribes**—men driven by a love for **titles, status, and control**. Jesus was not banning respectful language or relational terms; rather, He was **confronting the spirit behind their actions**, a spirit marked by **pride, domination, and false spiritual authority**. In everyday life, we naturally use terms like **teacher (rabbi, master), doctor, father, or leader**. Are we sinning by doing so? Certainly not. Yet, critics of spiritual fathering often point to Jesus' words, “*call no man father,*” while still calling their **biological fathers** “father” without hesitation. Why, then, is the term acceptable in the natural but rejected in the spiritual? This inconsistency reveals a **misunderstanding of the text**.

Jesus was using **figurative language**, not issuing a legalistic command. His statement was **hyperbolic**—a deliberate **exaggeration meant to emphasize a serious issue**. Throughout His teachings, Jesus often used hyperbole to drive home spiritual truths (see Luke 14:26; Matthew 5:29).

Example of Hyperbole in Scripture

Jesus often used hyperbole. Consider the following scriptures:

- **Luke 14:26** – “*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother...*” → **By this statement, Jesus means that we must put God first**; this means **God must take first place**, not that we should hate our families.
- **Matthew 5:29** – “*If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...*” → **Jesus is emphasizing the importance of restraint**, the **seriousness of sin**, not self-harm.
- **Luke 10:4** – “*Greet no one on the road...*” → **He was not asking them to be rude. He was warning them about distractions** - a call to **stay focused, avoid distractions, and not** promote rudeness.

In the same way, when Jesus said, “call no man a father,” he was alluding to the seriousness of the matter at hand.

WHAT WAS JESUS ACTUALLY ADDRESSING?

1. Do Not Make the Devil Your Father

- Jesus was talking about the Pharisees and Scribes, warning against submitting to **corrupt religious leaders** who misrepresented God.
- The context of Matthew 23 is the Pharisees and Scribes. He called the Pharisees “vipers” (Matthew 23:33) and said, “*You are of your father the devil*” (John 8:44).
- The whole chapter is about Pharisees and Scribes. **Jesus hated them**.
- To accept their fathering was to submit to a **satanic system**—they were actually accepting the devil as well.

2. You Are All Brothers

- Jesus reminded His disciples that they have the same father – God is their father, “*You are all brothers*” (Matthew 23:8).
- We share one Heavenly Father, and no man should seek **dominion** over others (2 Corinthians 1:24).
- Spiritual fathering should never become a system of control but a framework of love and accountability.
- By saying you are all brothers, this does not mean we will have the same function.

- **Equality in sonship does not mean equality in grace or function** (Romans 12:4-6).

3. He Was Denouncing the Titular Authority

Jesus wasn't against the function of teaching, leading, or fathering—He was against people using those roles as **titles of superiority**. The issue was **motive**.

- Teachers, fathers, and instructors are among us – “father” is a term of endearment to those who are teaching us – it is not a title.
- Some people use “father” or “papa” or “dad” or “tata” for a spiritual father as a term of endearment, out of love for them - they do so out of **honour and affection**, not idolatry.
- It becomes a problem when one insists people call him “father”. It's even worse if you insist that people outside your sphere call you “father.”. This reflects the **Pharisaic spirit**—hungry for titles.
- The Pharisees were drawn to titles such as “father,” “Abba,” and “rabbi” because for them, it was not about relationship or function—it was about **status, recognition, and religious superiority**.
- “They love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.” — *Matthew 23:6–7 (NIV)*

4. Jesus Was Rebuking Pride

At the heart of His rebuke was **pride** - a love for prominence. Jesus was rebuking pride manifested by the use of titles – exaltation is a result of humility.

- In our apostolic circles, we value **function over form**, we recognise the role or the function one is doing, not the title – we recognise the fathering role of many spiritual leaders, but we do not exalt man above Christ.
- As Paul said, “*Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ*” (1 Corinthians 11:1). **Any fathering role must point sons toward Jesus, not toward the man.**
- Personally, I do not instruct people to refer to me as “father,” but when they do, I interpret and accept it as a gesture of deep love for their spiritual father rather than usurping the position of Christ.

IN SUMMARY

The **Father–Son Wineskin** is not about domination - it's a return to **God-ordained relational model** that produces maturity, fruitfulness, and legacy. When rightly expressed, this wineskin:

- ◉ Mirrors God's **family design** (Ephesians 2:19)
- ◉ Raises mature sons who reflect Christ (Galatians 4:19)
- ◉ Establishes generational continuity and grace (2 Timothy 2:2)

Let us reject **counterfeit authority**, pride, and titular religion—and embrace the **relational blueprint** of the Kingdom.

For in these last days, **God is turning the hearts of the fathers to the sons, and the sons to the fathers** (Malachi 4:6), that He may release **healing, legacy, and multiplication** in the Body of Christ.

May the grace of our Lord, the peace that surpasses understanding, the joy of the Holy Spirit, and the tender mercies of our Father be multiplied to you!

Amen!