

Godly Fathers

Luke 15:20 "...But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."

The Influence Of Fathers

- The Disappearing Dad
- Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32
- Prov. 13:24 - "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." (NIV)

Blueprint For Fathers

- The Problem
 - Loss of VISION for the future
 - Loss of PRIORITIES
 - Loss of a sense of DUTY and COMMITMENT

Blueprint For Fathers

- The Results
 - Fatherless children are more likely to commit crimes and engage in substance abuse.
 - Fatherless children tend to score lower on tests and have lower grade point averages.
 - Children of father-absent families are ten times more likely to be poor and five times more likely to be extremely poor.
 - Adolescents in mother-only families are more likely to be sexually active, and daughters are more likely to become single-parent mothers.
 - As many as 75% of teen suicides and 80% of psychiatric admissions come from broken homes, families where the father just did not do his God-given job.

Blueprint For Fathers

- 2Cor. 6:18 - "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."
- Matt. 6:9 - "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."

A Father Loves Unconditionally

- Psalm 103
- Rom. 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

A Father Gives Sacrificially

- John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- James 1:17 - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

A Father Requires

- What happens when a father does not require good behavior of his children?
 - Eli - 1Sam. 2:12, 29 - "Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD. 29 Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?"
 - David - 1Kings 1:6 - "And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom."

A Father Prepares His Children For The Future

- Col. 3:23 - "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"
- Lam. 3:27 - "It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth."

A Father Prepares His Children For The Future

- You do not accomplish that by putting secular matters before spiritual
- You cannot do that by immoral behavior at home
- You cannot do that by limiting spiritual discussions to services
- You cannot do that and allow filth in the home (TV, music, etc)
- You cannot wait until your children are nearly grown to begin

Fathers Are Men Of Tenderness

- 2Tim. 2:22-25 - "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth"
- 1Peter 3:7 - "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."

Fathers Are Men Of Tenderness

- Luke 18:16 - "But Jesus called them to Him and said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."
- John 8:7 - "So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."
- Gal. 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Fathers Are Men Of God

- They have no greater joy than to know that one's children walk in truth.
 - 2John 1-4
 - 3John 1-4

Fathers Are Men Of God

- Abraham - *Gen. 18:17-19* - Directed his house by example
- Joshua - *Joshua 24:14-15* - Directed his house by vow
- Manoah - *Judges 13:8,12* - Directed his house by prayer for the right rule
- Jonadab - *Jer. 35:5-10* - Directed his house by respect for authority

Fathers Are Men Of God

- Prodigal fathers bring forth troubled children - Gal. 6:7-8
 - Psalm 78:4-7 - "We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; 6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, 7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments"

- Fathers and grandfathers shape the generations coming after them.
- May we be as successful with our children as they were with us.