

# **The Down To Earth Gospel: The Gospel & Fatherhood**

## **Mark 1:9-13 & Ephesians 6:4**

June 19-20, 2021 – Daniel Fender

### **Why the Pleasure in Fatherhood?**

**1. Because the Father & the Son Have Had Pleasure in One Another for All Eternity**

**2. The Father's Affirmation - Don't Miss the Pleasure in This Passage:**

- Multiple Senses Involved (Seeing, Hearing)
- Public Not Only Private

**3. Because God the Father has Pleasure in Us (Luke 12:32)**

- We Were Made to Have Pleasure in Relationships
- Expressed Pleasure is Best From a Father to His Child

### **Why the Pain in Fatherhood?**

**1. Because Fathers Sin Against Their Children (Provoke)**

**2. Because Children Sin Against Their Father (Anger)**

- Fatherhood Can be a Pleasure Even When it's Painful
- The Alternative to Painful Sin: "... but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

**3. Discipline *and* Instruction, Not Discipline *or* Instruction – They Must Go Hand in Hand**

- Error of Over Discipline & Under Instructing
- Error of Over Instructing & Under Disciplining

**4. It is Hard to 'Bring Them Up' - Not Pushing Out too Quickly and Not Holding them Back from Maturity**

- Bringing them *up* to Maturity - The Goal
- *Bringing* them up to Maturity - The Way

**5. It is Hard Work Imparting a Christian Worldview- 'Of the Lord'**

- Children Hunger for & Need a Vision of God
- Fathers are Called to Give them a Vision of God and Live in Light of It

**Why These Two Must Both Be True?**

- 1. Fatherhood is Riddled with Pleasure and Pain because God the Father has so much Pleasure in His Children that He would Endure the Pain of His Son (Isaiah 63:9; Jeremiah 31:20)**
- 2. The Father had so much Pleasure in making us His children that He Endured the Pain of His Son (Ephesians 1:6)**

**Community Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How have these Scriptures and this sermon encouraged or challenged you? Anything from it that you'd like to remember or apply to your life?
2. What has been a high point and a low point of your week? Why do you think God has put such a mixture of pleasure and pain in our lives?
3. Describe a time when being a father (or being with your father) was a pleasure and a joy. Describe a time when being a father (or being with your father) was painful or a cause for sorrow.
4. How has God illustrated the Gospel in your life through Fatherhood? Either as a dad or in relationship with your dad? If you don't know your dad very well how has God been a Father to you through that hardship?