

My Father

June 18, 2023

Character Qualities of Father/Father God

- Discipline, Provision, and Protection, – all motivated by love

Love – that makes sacrifices

- John 3:16 (NLT) — 16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, ...
- Ephesians 5:21–26
 - Wives submit to husbands
 - Husbands submit to wives
 - Love her as Christ loved the church
 - Give up your life for her
 - A representation of Godlike love – for your children to observe
- John 15:9–13 ... There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Discipline

- Hebrews 12:5–11
 - God disciplines those he loves
 - A father who doesn’t discipline his children?
 - Proverbs 13:24 ... Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.
 - Proverbs 22:15 (NLT) — 15 A youngster’s heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away.
 - Psalm 23:4
 - Earthly fathers disciplined for a few years doing the best they could
 - No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening – but afterwards there will be a peaceful harvest of right living
- Proverbs 22:6 Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.
- Proverbs 4:1–4
- Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, ...bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Provision

- Matthew 7:9–11 God gives good gifts
- Matthew 6:25–33 how much more God cares for you
- Luke 15:20–24 Provision for the prodigal
- Proverbs 13:22 an inheritance for the children’s children

Protection

- Proverbs 14:26
 - Living in the fear of the Lord is a place of safety
- Psalm 91:1–4
 - God’s presence is a place of safety
 - He will rescue you from every trap
 - Fathers, keep yourselves and your family in the place of God’s presence

The Ideal/Real Gap

- You earthly fathers, being evil...
 - From the spectrum of abusive, to absent, to negligent
- Father to the fatherless
- Deuteronomy 10:17–18 ...He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice
- Matthew 7:11...how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

Men of Integrity

- Proverbs 20:7 (NASB95) — 7 A righteous man who walks in his integrity— How blessed are his sons after him.
- Be a #1 Dad