

Summer Series  
Not Many Fathers  
June 15/16, 2019

**1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NIV)** I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you **as my dear children**. Even if you had **ten thousand guardians** in Christ, you do **not have many fathers**, for in Christ Jesus **I became your father** through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

**Malachi 4:6** His preaching will turn the hearts of **fathers to their children**, and the hearts of **children to their fathers**. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.

Three Steps...

1. Allow God to heal your father wound.

**James 5:16** Therefore confess your sins **to each other** and pray for each other so that you may be **healed**.

**Psalms 68:5-6** Father to the **fatherless**, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in **families**; he sets the prisoners **free** and gives them **joy**.

2. Find a father and be a father.

**2 Timothy 2:1-2** Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

- ✓ Before you can be a father, you need to learn to be a son or daughter.

**1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 NLT** “You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.”

- ✓ A father warns of danger.
- ✓ A father encourages.
- ✓ A father sets an example.

3. Relate to God as a father.

**Romans 8:15-16** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as **his own children**. Now we call him, “**Abba, Father**.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that **we are God’s children**.

**Walk Away:** The more we allow our lives to be healed, the more we discover who we are, so we can pass that on to someone else.

