

✓ OWF.1. The Impact of Fatherlessness

Saturday, 19 April 2025 11:31 AM

The Impact of Fatherlessness

I. Summary: The Bible Story

1. **The Story begins with God the Father (Gen.1:1)**
 - God the Father creates a son and daughter
 - He gives them dominion over His physical creation
 - A fallen rebellious son deceives them and steals from them
 - He turns the world into a spiritual orphanage
2. **The Story ends with God the Father (1Cor.15:24)**
 - God sends His Son Jesus to restore all things
 - Jesus establishes His reign and dominion over the earth
 - Many sons and daughters share his reign on the earth
 - Jesus hands back the Kingdom to The father
3. **The Remainder of the Story?**
 - Many stories of people who are spiritually Fatherless, Orphans
 - Progressive revelation of God as a Loving Father seeking to restore His family

II. The End Time Prophecy of Malachi

1. **Father Issues Predicted by Malachi**
 - [Mal 4:5](#) *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*
 - [Mal 4:6](#) *And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*
 - Malachi is the last book of the Old testament
 - This is the last statement of the Old testament
 - Traditionally it refers to the Ministry of John the Baptist (Matt.11:14/Mat.3:2)
 - It also has applications to the End Times and preparing for the coming of Jesus
2. **The Problem?**
 - **The hearts of Fathers had turned away from their children**
 - The Fathers had abandoned their responsibilities towards their children
 - When a Father's heart turns away or becomes shut down towards his child, the child knows instinctively that something is wrong
 - **The heart desires to be known, to be safe, to be loved**
 - The pain children experience by Father Neglect or Father Abuse causes long term affects upon children
 - Resentment, bitterness and unforgiveness develop towards their fathers
3. **The Promise:**
 - *"I will turn the hearts of the Fathers towards their children"*
 - When the hearts of Fathers have turned away from their children, the children develop long term emotional, and spiritual wounds
 - **God promises through Malachi of heart transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit**
 - This is a promise of Healing of Broken hearts
 - [Psa 147:3](#) *He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.*
 - **This is also a key part of Jesus ministry (Lk.4:18)**
 - **Jesus came to restore:**
 - **Relationship with God as Father**
 - **The Presence of Father with us**
 - **Dominion over creation as Father's sons and daughters**
 - Mal.4:6 is a promise of Restoration of God's order in Father/Child relationships
4. **The Root is Spiritual**
 - The root of the problem is spiritual and therefore needs a spiritual solution
 - The root of the problem of Fatherlessness is demonic defilement and destruction
 - Corruption of the Purpose of God in fatherhood
 - **The reference to Elijah**
 - This indicates that the problem has been caused by the impact of a Demonic Principality known as the **Spirit of Jezebel, or the Queen of Heaven**

- It is present in every culture in the world
- **This Principality disrupted Israel and destroyed its culture by:**
 - Idolatry, demonic substitutes for God
 - Destruction of the Prophetic Voice
 - Corruption of Morality
 - Child sacrifice
 - Temple prostitution male and female
 - Destruction of male and female distinctive
 - Destruction of Kingdom Family design and Order
 - Undermining Gender distinction and Roles
 - Destruction of Generational Legacy

III. **Fatherlessness in End Times**

1. **What is meant by Fatherlessness?**

- **Fatherlessness Defined**
 - A Child whose Father has died or divorced, or abandoned his family
 - A Child whose Father is physically present, but is disconnected emotionally and relationally
- **Bible Definition**
 - A child whose Father has died or abandoned his family
 - To be Fatherless led to poverty, abuse and exploitation
 - Such a child is called in the Bible Fatherless, or an orphan

2. **Throughout the Bible God reveals Himself as a Father to the Fatherless**

- **OT:**
- [Psa 68:5](#) *A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.*
- [Deu 10:18](#) *He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.*
- **NT**
- [Jhn 14:18](#) *I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

3. **How does the Bible describe a Father?**

- **Bible Definition of Father:**
- The Words used to describe a Father give insights to God's design for Fathers
 - OT.....Heb... **Ab**.....The head or founder of a household, the originator, the source
 - NT.....Gk... **Pater**.... The originator, a term of honour and respect for authority figure
 - NT.....Gk.....**Abba**..... "Daddy", a term of intimate endearment and closeness

4. **How does the Bible describe a Son/Daughter?**

- **Bible Definition:**
- The words used to describe a Son/Daughter give insights to the relationship of children to their Father
- **OT:**
 - *Son.....Heb.....Ben.....a Branch, a Builder of the family name*
 - *Daughter.....Heb.....Bath...a Branch, a Builder*
- Both words describe identity, and inheritance and belonging to a family
 - The describe a personal relationship and Working together in the Father's interests
 - OT names reflect that. Men were identified as " the Son of"
- **NT:**
 - *Son.....Gk.....Huio.....a mature Son and heir*
 - *Daughter.....Gk.....Thugater...a female child*

IV. **Key Responsibilities of a Father**

1. **What is a Father a Source of?**

- **A Source is the origin from which something comes**
 - The Role of a Father is multifaceted and deeply rooted in spiritual and practical responsibilities

2. **Fathers are called by God to be a source of**

A. **Identity**

- [Eph 3:14](#) *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- [Eph 3:15](#) *from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*
- Identity is a person's understanding of who they are, shaped by their origin, relationships and purpose
 - Fathers are a profound source of identity throughout the Bible.

- Fathers give a Family Name and Legacy to their children
- Children form their first understanding of God through their Fathers

B. Provision

- [1Ti 5:8](#) *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
- A Father has the responsibility of:
 - Providing for his household physically, spiritually, emotionally and morally
 - Model the goodness and generosity of God the Father (Matt.7:9-11)
 - Physical Provision.....Food, shelter and basic needs
 - Spiritual Provision.....Praying for them, teaching them truth (Dt.6:6-7)
 - Emotional Provision.....Building a safe, loving and nurturing environment (Ps.103:13)
 - Moral Provision.....Teaching values and establishing boundaries (Prov.3:11-12)

C. Protection

- [Gen 2:15](#) *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*
 - The first responsibility given to Adam was that of a watchman and cultivator
 - A Father is expected to protect his family from harm, physical, emotional and spiritual
 - Protection includes guarding the heart and spirit of his family from negative influences
 - A Father sees and warns of impending dangers, issues, and relationships that would negatively impact his children

D. Leadership and Guidance

- [Deu 6:5](#) *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*
- [Deu 6:6](#) *And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.*
- [Deu 6:7](#) *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*
 - Fathers are expected to be spiritual leaders in their homes guiding their children in the ways of God
 - Fathers are meant to lead by personal life example and not just by words
 - Jesus was a Father to His disciples. He modelled prayer to them

E. Correction and Discipline

- [Pro 3:12](#) *For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*
 - A Father is called to guide his children to maturity, teaching them right from wrong
 - Biblical discipline is about love, correction, and the shaping of character and self control
 - Without a Father's boundaries and discipline, a child becomes insecure and self-centered

F. Comfort and Nurture

- [2Co 1:3](#) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*
- [2Co 1:4](#) *who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*
- [1Th 2:7](#) *But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.*
- [1Th 2:8](#) *So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.*
 - God the Father is a source of comfort and nurture (2Cor.1:1-3)
 - God gently comes alongside of us to be present with us and to comfort and encourage us
 - This is the gentle and affectionate and relational aspect of God's Fatherhood

G. Affirmation and Encouragement

- [Mat 3:17](#) *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
 - Fathers are called to speak words to their children that help them see their value and their worth
 - Speak words like:
 - *My Son I love you*
 - *My son, You did so well*
 - *My son I am so very proud of you*
 - *My Son I am here for you. I have your back*

H. Fathers are also called by God to build a Legacy for their children and grandchildren

- [Pro 13:22](#) *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,*

- A Legacy is not left, a legacy is intentionally built
- The Legacy of a Father impacts generations for good or bad
- That legacy can be spiritual, relational, emotional, physical, financial or all of these
- **What Legacy are You intentionally building?**
- [Sng 1:6](#) *Do not look upon me, because I am dark, Because the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards, But my own vineyard I have not kept.*

I. Statistics on Fatherlessness in NZ

1. The Impact on Boys of being Fatherless

1. Family Structure in NZ

- Nearly 1 in 3 children in New Zealand live in Fatherless homes
- 49.8% of all births were to unmarried parents (2022)

2. Youth Offending

- 65% of youth offenders in Christchurch were not living with their father. (Source: [Menz.org.nz](#))
- In West Auckland, 90% of youth who had police involvement came from fatherless homes. (Source: [Menz.org.nz](#))

3. Criminal Behaviour

- Boys raised without fathers are:
 - 14 times more likely to commit rape.
 - 20 times more likely to end up in prison. (Source: [Menz.org.nz](#))

4. Suicide Risk

- 63% of youth suicides occur in young people from father-absent homes.
- Boys without fathers are 5 times more likely to die by suicide compared to those with an involved father. (Source: [Menz.org.nz](#))

5. Educational Impact

- 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- Boys without a father are 9 times more likely to drop out of high school. (Source: [Menz.org.nz](#))

6. Mental health

- Boys from father-absent homes are significantly more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and low emotional resilience.
- While a specific New Zealand percentage wasn't found, global studies suggest boys from fatherless homes are 2–3 times more prone to serious mental health issues.
- Boys from fatherless homes are 10 times more likely to abuse substances like drugs and alcohol. (Source: [Menz.org.nz](#))

2. The Impact upon Girls of being Fatherless

1. Poverty and Family Structure

- 49.8% of all births in New Zealand (2022) were to unmarried parents, with many children raised in single-mother households.
- Children in fatherless homes are more likely to experience poverty and material hardship, especially Māori and Pasifika children.
- Among Māori, only 20% of babies are now born to married parents—down from 72% in 1968. (Source: [Family First NZ](#))

2. Teen Pregnancy & Early Sexual Activity

- 7 to 8 times more likely: Girls whose fathers were absent before age 5 are 700–800% more likely to become pregnant as teenagers.
- 2 to 3 times more likely: Girls whose fathers left between ages 6–13 are 200–300% more likely to experience teen pregnancy.

(Source: [Father & Child Foundation](#))

3. Mental Health

- While New Zealand-specific percentages for girls are limited, broader studies (including those cited in NZ reports) suggest:
 - Girls from fatherless homes are 2 to 3 times more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety.
 - This aligns with global research where up to 68% of girls in psychiatric care report father absence or emotional unavailability. (Sources: [NZ Herald](#), international studies)


4. Educational Impact

- Though not gender-specific in current NZ data, general findings show:
 - 71% of school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
 - 63% of youth suicides are from father-absent families.
 - These numbers apply to both boys and girls, though girls tend to internalize (e.g. depression, anxiety), while boys externalize (e.g. aggression, violence).


5. Accelerated Puberty

- One Christchurch study showed girls from fatherless homes reached menarche (first menstruation) an average of 6–12 months earlier than peers with involved fathers.
- Early puberty has been linked to increased risk of sexual activity, depression, and body image issues. (Source: [University of Canterbury Research](#))


FATHERLESSNESS AND BOYS IN NEW ZEALAND




YOUTH OFFENDING
65% of youth offenders Christchurch; 90% of youth police involvement in West Auckland homes




SUICIDE RISK
63% of youth suicides occur from father-absent homes: Boys without fathers 5 times more likely to die by suicide




EDUCATIONAL IMPACT
71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes
Boys without a father are 9 times more likely to drop out of high school



CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR
Boys raised without fathers are 14 times more likely to commit rape, 20 times more likely



MENTAL HEALTH
Boys from father-absent homes significantly more likely to experience depression, anxiety and resilience



FAMILY STRUCTURE IN NEW ZEALAND
Nearly 1 in 3 NZ children live in fatherless homes
49.8% of all births (as of 2022) were to unmarried parents: Among Maori, only 20% are born to married couples today (compared to 72%)¹

Sources: [ifamilyfirst.org.nz](#) | [zn.us](#) | [www.famnhert.org.nz](#)

IMPACTS OF FATHERLESSNESS ON GIRLS IN NEW ZEALAND

- **Teen Pregnancy and Early Sexual Activity**
Girls whose fathers were absent **before age 5** are **7 to 8 times more likely** to become pregnant as teenagers, and those whose fathers left between ages 6–13 are **2 to 3 times** more likely.

- **Mental Health:** Girls from fatherless homes are **2 to 3 times more likely** to suffer from depression and anxiety.
- **Accelerated Puberty:** Girls from fatherless homes reach menarche (first menstruation) **6-12 months earlier**
- **Poverty and Family Structure:** **49.8%** of all births in New Zealand are to unmarried parents, with many children raised in single-mother households.
- **Educational and Behavioral Issues:** **71%** of school dropouts come from fatherless homes, and **63%** of youth suicides are from father-absent families

(Sources: Father & Child Foundation, University of Canterbury Research, Family First-NZ, MENZ)