

Father's Day: Provide and Protect

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Good morning! Welcome to Father's Day here at Petra. I would love to take a moment to celebrate our fathers today.

Dads stand up.

Stereotypes – good and bad

Genesis 2:15 KJV

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Tend (Hebrew *'abad*) means "to work or serve," and thus referring to the ground or a garden, it can be defined as "to till or cultivate." It possesses the nuance seen in the KJV's choice in its translation: "dress," implying adornment, embellishment, and improvement.

Keep (Hebrew *shamar*) means "to exercise great care over." In the context of [Genesis 2:15](#), it expresses God's wish that mankind, in the person of Adam, "take care of," "guard," or "watch over" the garden. A caretaker maintains and protects his charge so that he can return it to its owner in as good or better condition than when he received it.

1. Fathers are called to provide and protect.

Genesis 5:21-24

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God

Malachi 4:6 ESV

⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers,

2. Fathers avoid the extremes of dominating their children and retreating into passivity.

Domination

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Passivity

Proverbs 13:24

²⁴ Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Paul is speaking of the manner in which he has pastors the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

3. Fathers clearly and consistently communicate the supremacy of God over their home.

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Psalm 103:13

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

Closing – Song