

# Introduction

## 1. Father's Day

- (1) Becoming more complicated
- (2) We all have an image for our children in our minds.

Slide 1    Slide 2

Slide 3    Slide 4

## 2. Image Distortion

- (1) When they don't live up to the image
  1. Could I have done better?
  2. He could have done better!(Worried about our own kids)
- (2) So how do we avoid these kinds of daddy issues

**Ephesians 6:4** - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

1. Provoke = exasperate
2. Some ongoing pattern of parenting
3. Key = but, bring them up

# I. You will repeat your father's mistakes (v.7-11)

## 1. A father's sin is generational (v.7-9a)

Slide 5 (1) A father is responsible for what he models

**Numbers 14:18** - 'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.'

1. Fathers who are not serious about their sins will see their sins embodied in their own kids
2. Trying to hide or shield sin doesn't work
3. Hide/shield communicates a provoked conscience, but not a provoked heart

Slide 5 (2) A Father is not perfect and will pass down imperfection

**Romans 3:23** - ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1. You will pass things down to your children that you don't want to.
2. The objective is not to prevent from passing every sin down, but to pass your response down with it.

## 2. A Father's sin is personal (v 9b-11)

### (3) No one is trapped in their father's sin

Side 5

1. No one is trapped in their own sin, either.

**Leviticus 26:40-42** - "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers...if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham..."

2. You can't get much clearer than that in the Mosaic Law. Anyone can repent from generation to generation

### (4) A father should take responsibility for sin, but can't be given blame

Side 5

**Exodus 20:5** - "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me."

1. The sins of the father are punished in the children by these sins becoming the children's own sin.

**Deuteronomy 24:16** - "Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin."

2. Not to blame for wayward kids

**Jn. 9:1-3** - "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

### (5) Jesus forgives & frees all generational curses

Side 5

**Galatians 3:13** - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.'"

1. That struggle can either end w/ you or start w/ you, depending on your relationship w/ Jesus.

## II. You may run short of your father's success (v12-16)

### 1. You can model your father's efforts (v12-15)

(1) v12-13 - The language is very striking compared to the events of his father

1. Isaac has become more wealthy & more prominent in Abimelech's Kingdom than his father did.

(2) Some of you will surpass your father's success in certain regards

1. Financially
2. Positionally
3. Spiritually

(3) You will do so, because your father provided a template, a reference point for how to do it better than he did.

(4) This is what every parent should want.

1. To pass down our efforts that can be added to & improved on.
2. We just can't guarantee the effects

## 2. You can't model your father's effects (v16)

- (1) Isaac becomes so prominent, in fact, that he is thrown out of Gerar.
  1. He falls short of the diplomatic relations maintained for a generation under his father.
- (2) The results your dad had, you may not. The success we have, our children may not.
- (3) What is success?

### Slide 6

1. **Guilt**
  2. **Shame**
- > versus
- (4) If your standard is too high for yourself... it will be for your kids, too
  - (5) Success (last week)
    1. Imitate Christ
    2. Assess the rest
    3. Repent from what was opposed.

### III. You must reflect on your Father's Faith (v17-33)

#### 1. Imitate his own living Faith (v17-24)

- (1) Isaac remains in it & becomes a curator of what is the land promised to his father
- (2) Though it is not his land, yet he, in faith, re-establishes his father's well system.
  1. Wells are significant
- (3) For a long time, nothing goes right, but Isaac learned from his father how covenant people are to live

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

- (4) Fathers, show your children what Christian living is. What do they see when things aren't going right?
  1. Do they see you study?
  2. " " Praying?
  3. " " Worshiping?
  4. " " joy?
  5. " " repent?

- (5) He cannot give you saving faith, though

## 2. Incorporate your own saving faith (v25-33)

- (1) Children are not saved by their parents faith
- (2) Nor are they condemned by their lack of it.
- (3) Isaac's faith is real & personal, distinct from his father, while being fundamentally identical. (v22, 25)
- (4) We cannot rent or reject the faith of father.

last week

1. **Rent** - your father's living faith can be yours, but not his saving faith.
2. **Reject** - listen, every person lives inconsistently with respect to their philosophy, ideology, theology. It is intellectually dishonest to reject something because of that inconsistency. And spiritually catastrophic.
3. **Receive** - you have to deal w/ Jesus on His own merits

# Conclusion

1. Earthly fathers can reveal the need for a faithful, heavenly father

(1) God can heal the relationships between fathers & their children

(2) How has he hurt you?  
Failed you?

**Malachi 4:6a** - And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...

1. Don't let the sins of the father become the sins of your children

**2 Cor. 6:18** - and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

2. Let God be the better father

2. Earthly fathers can reflect the nature of a faithful, heavenly father.

(1) How has your dad been faithful?

1. Did he provide for you? (**Mat. 7:11**)

2. Ever remove a burden? (**Deu. 1:31**)

3. Ever a comfort? (**2 Cor. 1:3-4**)

4. Ever given you a gift? (**Luke 12:32**)

**1 John 3:1** - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.