Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 11-8-26
STAND Sunday – 2026
God, a Father to the Fatherless

1. Introduction:
   a. Special guest – Carlo Moore
   b. STAND Sunday Purpose:
      1) Stand in support of children and families in the foster care system.
   c. A wonderful truth:
      1) God is a father to the fatherless.
      2) James 1:27 - "to visit and help and care for the orphans and widows in their affliction and need…"
   d. Something very special the Lord reminded me of:
      1) I loved being a dad.
      2) God is the defender of the fatherless and the One who provides a family for the lonely.
         a) I think God loves being a father.
2. God tells us He is a father to the fatherless.
   a. Psalm 68:5 - "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation."
      1) God doesn't express pity toward fatherless children. He calls Himself their father.
      2) What does this teach us about God?
         a) He sees them.
         b) He cares about their well-being.
         c) He makes room for them.
      3) Application:
         a) Church, can we –
3. God promises to "take" up those who feel abandoned.
   a. Psalm 27:10 - "Although my father and my mother have forsaken me, yet the Lord will take me up [adopt me as His child]." Amplified
      1) This verse draws out a fear that some can carry.
      2) "take me up" – conveys the idea of being gathered in or received.
      3) God as a father to the fatherless means:
         a) They are not beyond His reach when others leave.
         b) They can bring Him the pain they cannot easily explain to someone else.
         c) Their worth is not determined by whether their earthly father stayed.
      4) Application:
         a) Church, can we –
4. God defends, protects, and provides for the vulnerable.
   a. Deuteronomy 10:17-18 - "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, the terrible God, Who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger or temporary resident and gives him food and clothing."
      1) This is the role of a father.
      2) God's fatherhood includes:
         a) Protection –
         b) Provision –
         c) Justice –
      3) Application:

a) Church, can we –

5. God will help His kids figure out life.
   a. Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”
      1) One of the great privileges I had as a dad was helping our kids navigate life.
      2) Look at what the Bible says:
         a) Psalm 32:8 – “I [the Lord] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”
         b) Proverbs 3:11-12 – “My son, do not despise or shrink from the chastening of the Lord [His correction by punishment or by subjection to suffering or trial]; neither be weary of or impatient about or loathe or abhor His reproof, 12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.”
         c) James 1:5 - “If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him.”
      3) Application:
         a) Church, can we –
6. God welcomes them to His family through His Son.
   a. Romans 8:15 - “Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
      1) Your earthly father’s absence does not have the authority to determine whether you can experience God’s love.
   b. Application:
      1) Church, can we –
7. God our Father has directed us to this ministry.
   a. James 1:27 –
      1) “religion” –
      2) “to visit” –
      3) “to keep himself unspotted from the world” –
8. Today’s Takeaways:
   a. To those who are fostering at this time –
   b. To those who are prayerfully considering engaging in fostering –
   c. To the rest here today -