

A Good, Good Father

June 18, 2017

I. Introduction

A. Happy Father's Day!

1. No one person on earth has as great an opportunity to influence a child's ideas about God as does the child's father.

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."

2. It truly is a great honor and privilege to be a Father.

B. We have a Fatherless Epidemic. Consider the stats:

1. 20 million children in the U.S. are living in a Fatherless home.
2. 90% of homeless and runaway children are Fatherless.
3. 71% of all adolescent substance abusers come from a Fatherless home.
4. 80% of adolescents in psychiatric hospitals come from Fatherless homes.

C. Fatherhood is foundational to the health of our society and critical for leaving a legacy.

Proverbs 13:22 "A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren..."

Proverbs 20:7 "The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him."

II. Give Your Best Energies to Your Most Important Relationships

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrated his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

A. Man is made in God's image.

1. He breathed His own breath into us, setting us uniquely apart from all His other creations.

2. He gave us both a material body and an immaterial soul/spirit.

B. God put his best energies into his most important relationships.

C. Your energies are more valuable than your presents.

Ephesians 5:15-17 “Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days.”

III. Give Your Best Resources to Your Highest Priorities

A. When God chose Jesus (His Greatest Resource) to come to Earth, it was for you, His Highest Priority.

1. Misconception about God will negatively affect you.

- You'll worry about things you shouldn't worry about.
- You'll feel guilty about things you shouldn't feel guilty about.
- You'll carry around unnecessary fears, doubts, depression, etc.

2. An accurate view of God gives you answers to the big questions of life.

- Why am I here? (Existence)
- Does my life matter? (Significance)
- What's my purpose (Purpose)

3. When you have an accurate view of God, you can live without having answers to why some things happen in life.

B. When you give your best resources (Time, Energy, Money) to your children, so that they can know God, you are setting them up to live a life of significance, regardless of their circumstances.

Proverbs 20:7 “The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.”

IV. Give Your Best Attitude to Your Deepest Disappointment

A. Man's Fall was God's greatest disappointment.

B. Dads, your deepest disappointments are going to come from those closest to you...often your kids.

1. You can give them your resentment and anger, or you can give them your best attitude.
2. Resentment never works. Resentment is like swallowing poison, and then waiting for the other person to die.

C. Disappointments are a part of life. It's not about avoiding them, but about how you handle them.

V. CONCLUSION

A. God's presence is watching over you.

Isaiah 41:10 “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

B. God's purposes are at work in you.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

C. God's peace is available for you.

Psalms 29:11 “The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.”