

TRUE FATHERHOOD IS CRUCIAL TO GOD'S ORDER

God established His nation with a Father as it's head.

Abram's first name meant "exalted father",

God then changed his name to Abraham "father of a multitude" (Gen.17:5).

Abraham had a wider function than fathering a few natural children. His fatherhood extended to all 318 who were "born in his house". None of them were his own natural children. His fatherhood brought security, peace and government to the whole community (Gen.14:14).

Abraham is called "the father of all those who believe" whether Jew or Gentile (Rom.4:11,16). Through this, God is teaching us that Church and society are held together by effective fatherhood.

Jesus is the head of God's new nation the Church and like Abraham He has a fatherhood to all those born in His house. God calls Him the Everlasting Father and declares government and peace will flow out from Him in ever increasing measure (Isa.9:7).

Fatherhood is the foundation on which God has chosen to build the whole structure of society. Without clear fathering, society disintegrates into chaos because God's divine order is seriously flawed. Family and Society will never function properly until fatherhood is restored.

PARENTING IS NOT ENOUGH.

It has been wrongly assumed by present day Sociologists for several decades that one loving parent of either sex can give a child all it needs.

Recent Social study on One Parent Families have proved this to be false

The results of a long term investigation recently released have shown that with sample of 300 single parent children who each had only a caring mother or only a caring father that each group had certain lacks because of the absent parent of either gender. Children of either sex who only had a loving father lacked the warm and love of a mother's affection and often sought this affection in a wrong sexual way in their teen age years.

Children who had never had the love and discipline of a father tended to have the following traits:-

They lacked self-worth and value.

They lacked self-confidence and self-discipline.

They were low achievers, did not do well in school to become well qualified and get a good job.

They were much more disobedient and rebellious towards any authority.

They were seven times more likely to get in trouble with police in their teen age years.

EVERY INSTRUCTION IN SCRIPTURE FOR THE BRINGING UP CHILDREN IS GIVEN FIRST TO FATHERS NOT MOTHERS.

It is fathers that God finally holds accountable for the behavior of their children Eph 6:4; Col3:21.

In the Greek New Testament, the same word "patria", is used for both "family" or "fatherhood". The biblical definition of a family is the sphere of a man's fatherhood. This teaches us that as far as God is concerned it is inconceivable to think of a family except in terms of functioning fatherhood.

FATHERHOOD IS MORE THAN BRINGING UP NATURAL CHILDREN.

Fatherhood is not confined to functioning as a natural father to some children. God has called men to have the attributes of fatherhood whether they are married or not.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "ABBA" AND "PATER"

ōAbbaō is a word of intimacy like the English word ōDaddaō or ōDaddyō it is often the first word a little babe will say. It would only be used by close family members towards their father. Jesus used this word frequently when praying to His father.

ōPaterō was a word of respect recognizing the head of a house and would be used by servants and employees as well as the actual family. When the Spirit comes into our hearts He cries ōAbbaō and ōPaterō (Gal.4:4-7; Rom.8:14-16).

Abraham had his first child at 100 years, yet he had functioned as a father to all his household all his adult life.

Jesus was never married yet He is called the Everlasting Father.

The Apostle Paul was never married yet he refers to himself several times as a father to men and to churches.

Fatherhood is part of being a developed male and all men should seek to excel in it's qualities regardless of their marital state.

DON'T LEARN TO FLY AFTER YOU HAD TAKEN OFF

If pilots learned to fly by getting into a plane with a manual on how to fly and took off without an instructor or any experience their own and tried to learn to fly with one hand on the controls and one hand holding the open manual there would be many who would crash before they learned the skills to fly successfully. Yet many men do such a thing when they try to function as fathers naturally or spiritually.

If men as a whole developed strong fatherhood abilities regardless of their marital state, according to the biblical pattern, in home, Church, and society, then many of our social problems would disappear and Satan's kingdom would be severely curtailed.

SATAN HATES FATHERHOOD.

For this very reason Satan has attacked the clear role of fatherhood and has tried to devalue it and if possible to destroy it in two primary ways.

- 1) The Incompetent Father is replaced by the Competent Matriarchal alternative and the "father" is just a joke and the biggest "boy" in the family. Note how fathers are usually portrayed in the media and regular T.V. programs.
- 2) The Chauvinistic Dictator replacing genuine loving servant of true Fatherhood. This is very apparent in many cultures such as India, most of Asia, most African nations and much of the Hispanic world.

QUALITIES OF FATHERHOOD

Paul tells us in Ephesians 3: 14,15 that all fatherhood in heaven and on earth has its source in God.

Literally translated this passage should read:- "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵from whom *the whole family* (literally in the Grk. *pasa patria* "all fatherhood") in heaven and earth derives its name.

Jesus said that when the Spirit comes "He will show us plainly about the Father" (John 16:25). Regardless of whether we have had a good natural father experience or not, the Spirit will show us what the perfect Father is like and then He will impart the same father attributes to us as a free gift of God's Grace.

Let's quickly summarize them.

1) Burden Bearer Shouldering responsibilities. Faithful and dependable. Quitting is simply not an option, because it's never in the heart of our Father God. (2 Tim.2:13).

2) Stabilizer Like our Father God, men are called to be dependable, immovable, stable and secure with no shadow of turning. An unshakable rock in a turbulent world, because there is no shadow of turning with God. (James 1:17).

3) Wise This wisdom comes down from above, from the Father of lights who gives it liberally. We have to ask in faith without doubting. (James 1:5; James 3:17,18). Jesus has been made unto us wisdom as well as salvation.(1 Cor. 1:30).

4) Provider A source of supply for all that is spiritual, emotional, and material to all who live under our fatherhood (1Tim.5:8). First of all a provider to those who are our own and then a generous giver who does good to all men.(2 Cor.9:7; Gal.6:10; Eph.4:28).

5) Protector Defending family and friends from every assault of Satan and also a shield of protection from the dangers and the harshness of the world. Like David we are the shepherd of all who come under our fatherhood and we protect them from the bear and the lion.

6) Endorser One who gives worth, value and identity to his children or to those who live or work under his fatherhood. He assures them that they are significant and valuable and can do something significant and worthwhile with their lives.

7) Encourager He gives his children, or those who work under his fatherhood, the confidence to go out and be more and do more than they would ever attempt on their own. He does not suppress but emancipates. He never condemns, but is

very encouraging and patient especially when they fail.

8) Leader/Ruler/ Manager One who goes out in front and shows the way. Not dominant or controlling but giving confidence so others can follow (1 Tim.3:4,5). Able to organize, direct and bring judgments that generally please everybody and give security (e.g. James in Acts 15:13-21).

This is biblical ruling. A man must ãruleö within the sphere of his fatherhood. It is not controlling but brings clarity and justice so all are comfortable and positive about the decision (Heb.13:7,17; 1 Tim.3:4,5; Acts 15:22).

Real Fathering is exercising Servant authority. It's goal is to train, develop and release without stunting or controlling. Its purpose is to find out who each child or person or church uniquely is and what their particular gifting is. It then seeks to bring forth that gifting in full undistorted maturity.

9) Discipler Every father, natural or spiritual, should be able to say to his children and to those he leads, ãFollow me as I follow Christ". ãWhatever you see and hear in me, do it and the God of peace will be with youö (1 Cor.11:1; Phi.4:9). According to scripture, when a disciple is fully trained, he will become like his discipler (Luke 6:40). Are we worth emulating? Do our children, natural or spiritual, want to become like us and would we want them to? The method of discipling is to teach, demonstrate, exhort, put to work and then to correct, strengthen and encourage. It's goal is not to control but to progressively release those we disciple into a right individual sufficiency in God.

10) Role Model/Example It is an awesome truth that we reproduce what we are and not what we teach. An alcoholic father will often produce generations of alcoholics. A violent father will usually produce a violent son. A godly father will produce godly offspring. Whether we intend it or not we are a role model to some and those who follow us will become what we model.

11) Discipliner According to scripture every father who loves his children will, like God, admonish and chasten them in love for their good. Dealing with attitudes is even more important than dealing with actions. The purpose of discipline is never to vent our anger or relieve our feelings or frustrations. But we do it for their sake so that they may learn to fear God, respect authority and change their ways to please God. Don't be like Eli whose house was judged by God because "his sons made themselves vile and he did not rebuke them" (1Sam.3:13).

12) Consistent God the Father never changes. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. The Bible warns us not to provoke our children to anger or to frustrate them (Eph.6:4; Col.3:21). All leadership and especially discipline must be consistent. It must also be reasonable and be seen to be fair and just even if it is unpleasant. Never make any kind of threat or promise without fulfilling it.

13) Emancipator If our fathering is working we cause our Sons to be come bigger and stronger in every way. They not contained or suppressed but achieve far more because of this relationship than they would ever have done on their own.

14) Know the True Father All the time our goal is to wean them off us and onto the fullness of their Heavenly Father.

15) The Exponential Growth Power of Generational Transmission

The greatest success and the greatest joy of true Fathering is when our children go beyond us to do greater works.

16) It is a constantly changing dynamic

We have to relate differently at every stage of their development from babyhood to maturity. This is true naturally and spiritually. There is a natural and spiritual equivalent for every Greek word from Brephos to Huios to Neaniskos which is another topic well worth our study.

17) Our Goal is to fully and totally connect them to the Father.

When the relationship between them and their true Heavenly Father is complete and mature, we fade into the background and become more and more a friend and counselor in an increasingly peer relationship.