

FAITHFUL FATHERS

Int.

1. Aim: To explain what it means to be a faithful father.
2. Proverbs 20:6-7 This passage says, "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him." Faithful = established, trusty, trustworthiness
3. It is a wonderful blessing to have a faithful father.
4. Fathers, you don't have to be the richest man, the smartest man, the best looking man, or the most interesting man. You just have to be a faithful father, and your family will be blessed because of you.
5. If you are a faithful father, your children will look up to you no matter how little you think of yourself. One school boy wrote an essay entitled, "MY POP'S TOPS" and he said, "My father never finished the sixth grade, but he's just as smart as if he was in the seventh."
6. You see, what you need to be is a FAITHFUL father.
7. CONSIDER HOW FATHERS SHOULD BE FAITHFUL:

Discussion

I. HE SHOULD BE FAITHFUL TO HIS CHILDREN.

- A. Children need the presence of their father. The "absent father" is a serious problem in our society.
 1. David Popenoe wrote an article entitled, "A World Without Fathers" in which he gave some rather depressing statistics: from 1960-1990 the number of children living apart from their biological father doubled, and that now about 1 out of every 2 children go to bed at night without being able to speak to their father.

2. Some fathers are practically absent – work, hunting, golfing, fishing, hundred other things and his presence is not known in the home. It takes being there to be a father to a child and not just a father of a child.

B. He needs to be faithful with his provision.

1. I Tim. 5:8 “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”
2. Father has been given obligation to care & provide for children as he is able.

C. He needs to be faithful with his praise.

1. He should be faithful in his affection, love, care, and adoration of his child.
2. The prodigal son's father never stopped loving his son.
3. David did not stop loving his son Absalom.
4. There is a Spanish story about a father and son who had their differences and had not spoken to one another for quite a while. The son ran away from home, and father tried to find him. The father ran an ad in a Madrid newspaper which said: “Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father.” On that Saturday 800, Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and the love of their fathers.
5. Fathers, what your children truly desire from you is your deep, faithful love for them.

D. Children need the pattern of their fathers, too. Prov. 20:7 “integrity”

1. Leading your children into the most ethical, wholesome and attractive lifestyle is the assignment God has given you.
2. Children need to see a man in the Lord, doing the Lord's will.

II. HE SHOULD BE FAITHFUL TO HIS WIFE

- A. A Christian father is faithful to his wife and his marriage vows.
1. He loves his wife and is willing to lay down his life for her in every way.
 2. Paul said, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).
 3. Because he loves his wife, he has no desire to "play around" and he knows that marital unfaithfulness is adultery and that this sin in the sight of God and against his wife.
- B. Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:27-28)
- C. Give your love to her steadfastly, selflessly, and sacrificially.
- D. Dr. H. Norman Wright said, "All deep relationships, especially the marriage relationship, must be based on absolute openness and honesty."
- E. Satan will place temptations before him, but the faithful man refuses to yield and his love and devotion for his wife grows and becomes stronger with the passing of the years.
- F. Husbands must be faithful to their wives. Mark 10:7 - "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife." The word "cleave" means "glued" or "stuck"
- G. Solomon said, "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun." Eccl. 9:9
- H. Prov. 5:18 "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

III. HE WILL BE FAITHFUL TO HIS CREATOR (GOD)

- A. A Christian father does not allow material things to come between him and his duty to God. While he recognizes the need to earn a living, he knows that God must come first and he is faithful to put Him first - Matt. 6:33
- B. Paul said, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:1-2
- C. Fathers must make a very important decision that will affect their family: to be saved and to serve the Lord. Joshua said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15
- D. Your life will find its real meaning when you are saved and start down the road living for God.

IV. FATHERS NEED TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE CHURCH.

- A. We may not have had benefit of good example of man in our family or a close friend to teach us how to serve God through the church. Paul was teaching Timothy how to do this - I Tim. 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."
- B. You need to be faithful to the worship of the church.
 1. You need to be faithful in attending the services of the church.
 2. You need to make sure the family is there, do not leave this area up to the lady in the house.

3. God has placed this responsibility upon you, and you cannot delegate it to anyone else.
4. Paul said, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4).

C. You need to be faithful to the work of the church.

1. You need to take an active part in teaching others the gospel, in teaching a Bible class, helping those in need, and being a servant of Christ.
2. God chose Abraham to be the recipient of a great promise because of his faithfulness.
3. God said of Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." (Gen. 18:19). Can God have the same confidence in you?

D. You need to be faithful to the welfare of the church.

1. Are you building up the church?
2. Are you doing something that will make someone else encouraged to be a Christian?
3. Some men fail here – one boy walked up to preacher one afternoon and handed him a quarter. The preacher asked him why he did that, and boy said, "Because my daddy said you're the poorest preacher he's ever heard."
4. What your children think of the church is what they hear, and learn from YOU.
5. Start a legacy of serving Christ with your own life and instill this desire in your children.

CONCLUSION

1. We challenge fathers to become the kind of man they want their children to appreciate, and the kind of man God wants them to be.
2. Being a Christian is a family affair. It's about father, mother, sons, daughters, loving one another and serving God every day.
3. Proverbs 20:6-7 "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."
4. A faithful father will be faithful to:
 - a. His Children
 - b. His Wife
 - c. God
 - d. Church

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