

# THE CHRISTIAN MAN AS A FATHER

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. According to Webster's first definition "father" means one who has begotten a child; a male parent; but in another definition he defines it as one who cares for as a father might.
- B. In Vine's dict. "father" is said to come from a root word signifying a nourisher, protector, upholder
- C. So there is more involved in being a father than just the ability to produce offspring
- D. A father has very grave responsibilities, it takes a "real" man such as we discussed in our first lesson to be a father in the true sense of the word

## DISCUSSION:

### I. FATHERS OF ORPHANS

- A. Some children with living fathers in practicality orphans
  - 1. If a father only provides his children with physical necessities, he provides them with no more than institutionalized children
  - 2. Some children literally deserted; others are in practicality deserted because of father's absence
  - 3. Some are orphans because of a lack of involvement in ordinary ways, they are present but are distant and withdrawn and leave the impression that they don't want to be bothered
  - 4. Fatherhood involves responsibility Eph 6:4; primary responsibility for nurturing belongs to the father
  - 5. Teaching, training children was expected: Abraham Gen 18:19; Moses Deut 6:4-9; David Psa 78:5-7
- B. It takes work to be a good father
  - 1. One must begin early and be regular Prov 19:18
  - 2. Don't wait till they are "old" enough Prov 22:6; develop your relationship while they are children
  - 3. (Study from UCLA - The average father talks to his children 45 seconds a day) Learn how to communicate Prov 1:8,9; I talked "to" or "at" instead of "with" my children
  - 4. Learn to discipline your children with love and understanding Prov 29:15,17; 13:24

### II. DISCIPLINE IS AN ACT OF LOVE

- A. Correction is proof of love, not hate
  - 1. How many times have we heard "I love my child too much to spank them"
  - 2. The truth is, if you don't spank them when they need it you do not love them
- B. God disciplines children whom he loves Heb 12:5-11
- C. Spare the rod and spoil the child, the Bible doesn't say this exactly, but this sentiment is there. note these passages Prov 13:24; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15,17

- D. Effective correction is not done by the rod alone
  - 1. Children need proper instruction Prov 1:7; 2Tim 3:15
  - 2. Teaching children how to behave involves more than just the social graces Lk 2:52
  - 3. Fathers derelict when they fail to instruct children in God's word Deut 6:6-9; Eph 6:1-3; Prov 1:8,9; 15:5
- E. Establish some guidelines that will earn respect for you
  - 1. Identify the rules well in advance
  - 2. be consistent (inconsistency is greatest problem)
  - 3. Keep your word, if say "I'm going to spank" then spank
  - 4. Control yourself (very difficult to do)
  - 5. Remember the purpose of discipline. Punishment is something one does **FOR** the child Heb 12:11. You love your child too much to allow them to behave badly

### III. LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

- A. Fathers must provide the proper environment
  - 1. In what direction have you pitched your tent Gen 13:10-13; 19:14-25; 2Pet 2:7,8
  - 2. Who do you have to visit in your home? Who are the individuals that your children look up to and imitate
  - 3. Instruction is important as seen but more is needed
- B. The proper example is a very powerful teaching tool
  - 1. Fathers must practice what they preach: Someone said: "Until a boy is fifteen he does what his father says; after that he does what his father does."
  - 2. The conflict between precept and example greatly confuses our children
  - 3. The most important example of all is faithfulness to the Lord; living a dedicated life 1Tim 4:16

### IV. DAUGHTERS NEED A FATHER TOO

- A. Some psychologists have concluded from research that father-deprived girls tend to show extremes of either promiscuity or withdrawal from males
- B. Fathers are not only for sons anymore than mothers are only for daughters
- C. Daughters need the love; good example; discipline of a father also
  - 1. Next to physical necessities, there is no more fundamental human need than love, let all your children know you care about them.
  - 2. Being available is important to all your children

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Fathers, how much do you love your children? You say: "that's a silly question." But, is it?
- B. Do you take your role as nourisher, protector, upholder seriously; are you shirking your responsibility to bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?