

The Example of God the Father

1

Today we celebrate Fathers. No
“earthly father” is perfect, but
we do have a Heavenly Father
who is.

He stands as an example that we
should follow.

2

The Leadership of the Father

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Notice how God leads in these verses. He leads us and takes care of us, just as a shepherd leads his sheep!

3

The Leadership of the Father

Leaders Lead!

This may seem obvious but think about how God leads you. He sets the example of how we are to live and how we are to parent.

Too many men have abdicated their roles. There are too many homes without fathers, too many children without a father figure.

Dads, your children will build a picture of God by watching how you live!

4

The Love of the Father

Jeremiah 31:3

The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.

God loves us with a love that lasts forever. There is nothing that we can do or all the evil forces and events can do that is able to separate us from the love of our Heavenly Father.

5

The Love of the Father

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6

The Love of the Father

Earthly Fathers need to follow this same example. We may not approve of all the things that our children do, but our love for them must be unconditional.

We must desire the best for our children's lives. This means there will be times that we need to discipline to teach them consequences for life's choices and to help them learn to make decisions that glorify God.

7

The Listening Father

Psalm 17:6-8

I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech. ⁷Show Your marvelous loving kindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them. ⁸Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

God always takes the time to listen to His children. Jesus gave the children time to come sit on His knee, and He has time to listen to you.

8

The Listening Father

As fathers, we need to take the time to listen to our children. Small children want to talk to their parents. In general, many parents train their children not to talk and share the issues of their lives, because parents do not take the time to listen properly.

9

The Lasting Father

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

In the era where fathers abandon their wives and children, it is great to know that God is faithful and will never leave us!

There is nothing one can do to the cause the Father to abandon us. Only sin can separate us from God and Jesus paid for that upon the cross.

10

The Lasting Father

Fathers, we must dedicate ourselves to our families. There will be some hard times, and you may feel like walking away. You need to remember your marriage vows. You made a commitment to God to see this through. Your children need you so teach them about commitment and dedication when times are hard.

11

The Longsuffering of the Father

Psalm 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

God is so patient with us. He sees us where we are in life and maturity. He sends events to train us up and to draw us deeper into our relationship with Him.

He NEVER gives up on us.

12

The Longsuffering of the Father

Psalm 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion,
and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in
mercy and truth.

As earthly fathers, we also need to learn to be
patient. The goal should be on learning and
growth and we cannot do it alone. Just as we
need our Heavenly Father working in our lives
to change us, so our children need us to do
the same.

13

So What....

Fathers, we need to set the example in our
homes, church, and society. We need to
set a radically different example from what
our children see on TV. We need to yield
our lives to the transformation of the Spirit
so our children can have the courage to do
the same.

We do make a difference, lets make sure
that it is a positive one!

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