How to Pray for your Father

(Selected Scriptures)
6/16/2013

Children, you should desire your dad to be a Godly father.
Before you are tempted to lose respect for your dad, ask yourself:
"Have I seriously prayed for my dad?"
Earnestly pray that God will help him to be responsible in the following areas:

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

1. The leader of our family
   (May I encourage him by submitting to his authority)

2. The lover of our family
   (Give him an unselfish, sacrificial heart)

3. The provider for our family
   (Help him to be the "bread winner" for our home)

4. The protector for our family
   (May our spiritual and physical security be his concern)

5. The corrector of me and my brothers/sisters
   (May I gladly accept his loving correction and appreciate his concern for me)

6. The example for our family (to follow)
   (Keep him in love with You, Your Word, and Your work; may he obey You always)

7. The teacher of our family
   (Help him to instruct my mom and us in the Scriptures)

Pray for your dad every day. Be specific in what you ask God to do for him, and expect God to answer. When He does, thank God and encourage your dad by obedience and honor.

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INTRODUCTION:

A newspaper clipping entitled "My Father" reads like this:

When I was 7, I thought, "My father is the smartest person in the world. He knows everything."

At 17 - "My father doesn't know as much as I thought he did."

At 21 - "My father doesn't know anything, compared to me."

At 35 - "My father knew much more than I thought he did."

At 50 - "My father was always right."

A child's concept of God is largely formed based on the character he sees in his dad.

If a child has a dad who is <u>not</u> just, he may view God as unjust.
If a child has a dad who is <u>not</u> trustworthy, he may view God as not trustworthy.
If a child has a dad who is <u>not</u> loving, he may view God as unloving.

NOTE: However, salvation can correct this.

Your children are looking up to you, Dad!

Many Christian wives, after reading about the Virtuous Woman in Prov. 31, no doubt wish there was a similar passage that unfolded the qualities of a virtuous husband.

God does have a pattern for men to follow. It is no less demanding or difficult than that of the Prov. 31 woman.

For you see, men (fathers), we must pattern our lives after our Heavenly Father.

One blessing is our privilege to call God our "father" (Mt. 6:9) --even "Daddy" (Papa) (Ro. 8:15)

God is our father; we are His children.

As children, we are to give Him the honor, respect, obedience, submission, etc., that is due Him. And our children should do the same for their parents (Eph. 6:1-3).

Children are to honor their earthly father, like Christians are to honor their Heavenly Father.

For a dad it's easy to say "Amen" to this. But remember, this
parallel holds us responsible to our children like God is responsible for us!

We are obligated to lead, love, provide for, protect, correct, be an example to, and teach our families just as our Father has obligated Himself in His relationship with us.

Children, you should desire your dad to be a Godly father.

Before you are tempted to lose respect for your dad, ask yourself:
"Have I seriously prayed for my dad?"

Earnestly pray that God will help him to be responsible in the following areas:

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

1. The <u>leader</u> of our family

(May I encourage him by submitting to his authority)

The husband is the <u>Head</u> of the home (I Cor. 11:3).

Headship does not imply superiority of essence (any more than Christ is different in essence to God the Father), but only <u>different in</u> function.

There is order in the Trinity; (and male and female were created in God's image) so it should not be a surprise that there is order in the home.

ILLUS: How the Soviets at about the time of Sputnik succeeded in attaching a second head to a dog. A two-headed dog is unnatural. It's a monstrosity. So is a home with two heads!

Why are woman leading the family in many homes today? Because the husband is not man enough to do so. It takes work to lead, and men today are lazy, don't want to be bothered, want to live in self-pleasure, etc.

Husbands: You are to be the head! If you are not, then what you are is nothing but a head-ache!

A father must be a godly leader in the home to be qualified for the pastorate (I Tim. 3; Tit. 1)

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

2. The lover of our family

(Give him an unselfish, sacrificial heart)

Loving = Sacrifice. Loving means putting your family's needs above your own interests.

--God's love does not depend upon the worthiness of the one loved (Ro. 5:8)

--God's love is not partial (not preferential - EX: one son above another)

--God's love does not change with circumstances (Ro. 8:35-39)

--God's love never ends!

Just as nothing should separate us from the love of Christ (Ro. 8:35-39), nothing should separate you from loving your wife and children.

(it's usually the littlest, stupidest things that cause some to stop giving love)

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

3. The provider for our family

(Help him to be the "bread winner" for our home)

"Nourisheth" = to bring up to maturity by providing necessary nutrition (EX: Eph. 6:4 - "Bring them up..." = same word)

Men, we are to provide for our families! When children come along, the wife must be at home, not be out providing for the family.

In our relationship to Christ (the groom), do we provide for Him, or does He provide for us (the bride)?

We are commanded never to worry about our needs (Mt. 6:25-34) - Because our Heavenly Father will provide!

Can your wife and children be as secure about you?

Wives have gone into the workplace (something God never intended (Titus 2:5) because of a husband that didn't provide.

Dad, you are the "bread winner."

If you are not working to provide, it's not to the blame of society, circumstances, ill fortune, etc., it is because of sin in your life!

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."

The best way to provide is <u>not</u> to just bring in the paycheck, but to bring in <u>yourself</u>.

They need <u>you</u> - your time, etc, more than your money.

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

4. The <u>protector</u> for our family

(May our spiritual and physical security be his concern)

"Cherisheth" = lit. to keep warm, to keep out of the cold.

Give your family the feeling of <u>security</u> by being a real man who will guard his family.

None of you "real" dads would ever allow someone to come into your house and physically harm your children; yet the same dads often let things that would spiritually harm our children in, without even thinking about it.

Protect your family by <u>praying</u> for them every day.

EX: Jesus our intercessor prays for his bride.
Job was a praying father (Job 1:5)
Paul prayed for his spiritual children (I Thes. 1:2; Cp. 2:11)

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

5. The <u>corrector</u> of me and my brothers/sisters

(May I gladly accept his loving correction and appreciate his concern for me)

Prov. 13:24 - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Prov. 19:18 - "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

Prov. 23:13-14 - "Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Prov. 29:15, 17 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
(Cp. Prov. 20:30)

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

6. The <u>example</u> for our family (to follow)

(Keep him in love with You, Your Word, and Your work; may he obey You always)

ILLUS: of a little boy trying to walk in Daddy's shoes.

As believers, we are to "walk as Christ walked" (I Jn. 2:6), and to "follow in His steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

God said, "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

God would never ask us to be something that He is not.

We should never be hypocrites and command something of our children that we don't do. If you do, your children may comply (they will listen to you) until they become teenagers.

Don't set double standards.

If you impress upon your sons the need for diligence, truthfulness, respect for the "golden rule" but are a quitter (jobs, serving Christ, etc.), boast of shady business conquest, or boast of your own getting even with others - don't be shocked at the children you produce!

Joshua didn't just say, "My house will serve the Lord." He didn't just send the wife and kids off to church. He said, "As for <u>me</u> and my house, <u>we</u> will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15)

Dad, don't let Satan get a foothold in your life; if he does, he has the main entrance to the whole home!

Fundamental, eternal principle: <u>Like produces like</u>.

If you sow potatoes, you don't reap tomatoes.

What is there about you worth copying?

Whatever you do, will be exaggerated in your children.

"Like Father, like Son" is true.
However, your sons will not merely tend to copy your faults, but will magnify them!

Deut. 6:5 - Half-hearted devotion is unacceptable. Verse 6 - Love must come from the <u>inner self</u>

It is only after personally appropriating truth, after internalizing it ourselves , that we can teach our children.

"Dear Father, I pray that you would help my father to fulfill his responsibility to be:

7. The <u>teacher</u> of our family

(Help him to instruct my mom and us in the Scriptures)

David knew that God was his teacher when he said: "lead me in thy truth and teach me...on Thee do I wait all the day."

Ps. 32:8 - "I will instruct thee..."

Jn. 14:26 - "He will teach you all things..." (cp. Jn. 16:13)

Teaching children spiritual truth is primarily the <u>father's</u> responsibility."

"The <u>Father</u> to the children shall make known Thy truth." (Is. 28:19)

Abraham was responsible to instruct his children and his household" (Gen. 18:19)

Joshua claimed this responsibility (Josh. 24:15)

God held Eli responsible for failing to instruct and correct his sons (I Sam. 3:f13).

In the N.T. the command is to <u>Fathers</u> to bring them up in the <u>nurture</u> and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4; cp. I thes. 2:11)

SEE Psalms 78:5-7

Teaching is to be:

1) <u>Repetitious</u> - "Diligently" = from a word, which describes the activity of sharpening a metal object by repeated strokes of a sanding block. (ILLUS: How God must teach us over and over)

2) <u>Specific</u> content - "Them" = the "words" of verse 6. The word, law, or commands of God.

3) <u>Informal</u> - weave teaching into your normal everyday routine.
   a. Simultaneous with other activity (<u>when</u> - sitting, walking, lying down)
   b. Different locations - house road, bed (ILLUS: how God teaches us not only at church [formally] but also during work, home, etc.)

4) <u>Continual</u> -
   a. At different times (day & night activities)
   b. All the time (from morning to morning)

While a continual, informal teaching of our children is the real key to their spiritual knowledge and growth, a specific time set apart each day is also vitally important.

A "Family Time"; "Family Devotions"; or "Family Altar" should be short, serious, and interesting.

ILLUS: A child said, "Dad, what is God like?" The reply: "I don't know - go ask your mother."

No dad knows all the answers, but he should know the elementary doctrines of the Christian faith - for we are responsible to God to teach our children!

A family without a father is like a teach without a coach; like a plane without a pilot; like a ship without a navigator.

When a home is without a father, God promises to step in as our Heavenly Father.

"He relieveth the fatherless [children] and the widow" (Ps. 146:9; cp. Hos. 14:3)

However, a family with a father who fails in his God-given roles is worse than no father at all!

CONCLUSION:

Pray for your dad every day. Be specific in what you ask God to do for him, and expect God to answer. When He does, thank God and encourage your dad by obedience and honor.

ILLUS: of a boy in the snow trying to step into his father's giant tracks, and saying, "Look, Mom, I;m walking in Daddy's footsteps!"

Are you the kind of person you would want your son to become?

Would you want your daughter to marry someone like you, Dad?

When you die, will you leave behind memories that point to God?

Will you leave your children a faith and example that will guide them when your voice speaks no more?

SEE POEM "To Any Daddy"

God Commands You to Discipline Your Child

Prov. 3:11-12 - "My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Prov. 13:24 - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Prov. 19:18 - "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

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