Our Father's Example

Selected Scriptures
(A Father's Day Message)
6-16-2024

Introduction:

Dads: Follow Your Heavenly Father's Example in the treatment of your Children!

Your Heavenly Father is…

I. <u>True</u> to His <u>Word</u>
(He keeps His promises to His Children)

Your Heavenly Father is…

II. <u>Quick</u> to <u>Protect</u>
(He is zealously protective of His Children)

Your Heavenly Father is…

III. A <u>Pattern</u> to be <u>Copied</u>
(He provides an example to be followed by His Children)

A. He is a pattern in His **Holiness** - *1Peter 1:16*
B. He is a pattern in His **<u>Love</u>** - Matthew 5:44-48
C. He is a pattern in His **<u>Discipline</u>** - *Hebrews 12:5-9; Proverbs 3:12*
D. He is a pattern in His **<u>Mercy</u>** - Luke 6:36

Your Heavenly Father has…

IV. The T<u>ime</u> to <u>Spend</u>
(He enjoys the presence of His Children)

Your Heavenly Father has…

V. The <u>Patience</u> to W<u>ait</u>
(He is slow to become angry with His Children)

Your Heavenly Father has…

VI. The <u>Heart</u> to be <u>Kind</u>
(He is Gracious and Merciful toward His Children)

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Introduction: See: Titus 2:

Manhood is under attack today;

Titus 2:1-2, 6-8
But speak thou the things
which become sound doctrine (healthy teaching):
That the **aged men** be sober (self controlled;
abstaining from wine; free from the control of wine),
grave (venerated for character, honourable),
Temperate (of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses
), sound in faith,
in charity, in patience (to remain under pressure without blowing up; endurance).

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded (to be of sound mind).
In all things shewing thyself a pattern
of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness (without moral rottenness), gravity
(respectable, dignity), sincerity (genuinely exempt from decay),
Sound (healthy) speech, that cannot be condemned;
that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Fatherhood is also under Satanic attack:
Many children are abused by their dad; Many do not know their dad.

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 not just, he may view God as unjust.
If a child has a dad who is not trustworthy, he may view God as not trustworthy.
If a child has a dad who is not 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.

Our Father's example:

God <u>oversees</u> His children - (Psalm 25:5, 139:10; Eph. 5:23-24)
(ARE YOU <u>LEADING</u> YOUR FAMILY?)

God <u>sacrificially loves</u> His children - (Eph. 5:25-28)
(ARE YOU <u>LOVING</u> YOUR FAMILY?)

God <u>gives</u> to His children - (Matthew 7:11; Eph. 5:29a)
(ARE YOU <u>PROVIDING</u> FOR YOUR FAMILY?)

God <u>instructs</u> His children - (Psalm 32:8 & Deut. 6:7)
(ARE YOU <u>TEACHING</u> YOUR FAMILY?)

To be "Godly" means to be Like God

God has attributes that He wants to share with with those who are His children!

Psalm 4:3 - But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

2 Timothy 3:12 - Yea, and all that will live <u>godly</u> in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Dads: Follow Your Heavenly Father Example in the treatment of your Children!

Your Heavenly Father is…

I. **True** to His **Word**

(He keeps His promises to His Children)

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES
(He keeps His covenants)

Rom. 4:19-21 - *"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb; He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform."*

Heb. 11:11 - *"Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."*

Examples:

God's promise to keep His Word

I Kings 8:56 - *"Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."*

God's promise to give the believer eternal life

Titus 1:2 - *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."*

cp.II Cor.1:20

Always keep your word (do what you say you will do)

Be faithful (dependable; consistent)
Prov.20:6 - *"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"*

Examples of faithful men:
1)Moses was said to be "faithful in all his house" (Heb. 3:2, 5).
2)David - Abimelech the priest said this to King Saul: "Who is so faithful among all thy servants as David?" (I Sam. 22:14).
3)Hananiah - Nehemiah put Hananiah in "charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man and feared God above many" (Neh. 7:2).

EX: the faithfulness of Micaiah, who, when asked to tickle the ears of the king like all the other prophets had done, said: "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak" (I Ki. 22:14).

Be faithful in little things. Luke 16:10 - "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Be faithful in your stewardship (I Cor. 4:2).

Mt. 25:23 - "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Your Heavenly Father is…

II. <u>Quick</u> to <u>Protect</u>

(He is zealously protective of His Children)

James 4:4-5
Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Reflecting God's Heart for His children, Paul writes:
2Co 11:2 For I am <u>jealous</u> over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

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)

Your Heavenly Father is…

III. A <u>Pattern</u> to be <u>Copied</u>

(He provides an example to be followed by His Children) - John 13:15

John 13:15
For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

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 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 me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15)

Fundamental, eternal principle: Like produces like.

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!

A. He is a pattern in His **Holiness**
1Pe 1:16
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

B. He is a pattern in His **Love** (Matthew 5:44-48)
Mt 5:48
Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

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.

C. He is a pattern in His **Discipline** - *Heb. 12:5-9*

Pr 3:12 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."

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)

D. He is a pattern in His **Mercy** - Lu 6:36
Lu 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Your Heavenly Father has…

IV. The Time to Spend

(He enjoys the presence of His Children)

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

God is "not far from everyone of us: for in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:27, 28).

God's Omnipresence

The word "present" means: here, close to, next to; and the prefix "omni" gives it universality. God is everywhere here, close to everything, next to everyone (Tozer, p. 121).

God is everywhere present!

SEE: Psalm 139:7-12

Your Heavenly Father has…

V. The Patience to Wait

(He is slow to become angry with His Children)

Ps 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.
Ro 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Why does God not immediately devour those who:

blaspheme; trample under foot His righteous laws; blatantly sin in defiance of the Bible; shamelessly sin with a clenched fist aimed toward heaven . . . ?

Why does God not suddenly strike dead those who rebel against His authority today as He did to Korah (Num. 16)? Or those who lie before fellow believers today in the same way as Ananias and Sapphira?

Indeed, how are we, who so often live our lives only to gratify selfish desires, spared God's immediate judgement?

Answer: "God is longsuffering to usward" (II Peter 3:9).

Definition of God's longsuffering:

"Longsuffering" - Both the Hebrew and Greek words refer to the quality of a prolonged "self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish" (Vine, p. 12).

Greek = "Macrothumia" - forbearing; patient; slow to anger; "long-fused"

"Macro" = long
"Thumia" = temper (or lit. "heat" from which we derive our Eng. word "thermal").

In the KJV, the word translated "longsuffering" ("macrothumia") is different than the word translated "patience" ("hupomona").

The word "patience" is not used of God (with the exception of Christ "enduring" the cross - Heb. 12:2). Therefore, we will study the word "long-suffering."

Divine patience is that "power of control which God exercises over Himself, causing Him to bear with the wicked and forebear so long in punishing them" (Pink, p. 62).

"The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power" (Nahum 1:3). God has power over His display of anger, unlike men who lack power (control) over themselves when provoked.

"A prince that can bridle his passions is a king over himself as well as over his subjects" (Charnack).

God can restrain His will (desires) and right to judge. He is "slow to anger" (Heb. 9:17; Ps. 103:8).

God's longsuffering (patience) is a manifestation or an expression of His mercy. His longsuffering is tied to His compassion and mercy (Ps. 86:15 - "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.").

(NOTE: And mercy is an expression of His love - Eph. 2:4; "charity suffering long" - I Cor. 13:4).

Charnock called God's slowness to anger "a branch . . . from His mercy" (cited in Pink, Attributes, p. 62).

"The Lord is full of compassion, slow to anger" (Ps. 145:8).

Your Heavenly Father has…

VI. The <u>Heart</u> to be <u>Kind</u>

(He is Gracious and Merciful toward His Children)

The Hebrew word "hanan" depicts God's heartfelt (compassionate) willingness to grant favor on someone who has a need.

The word is believed to be derived from a root word meaning "to bend or to incline" (Theo. Wordbook of the O.T. p. 302).

it describes the action of a superior to an inferior as he stoops or condescends to extend a favor.

The Greek word "charis" - the undeserved kindness and favor of God, that is usually shown to man by means of a spiritual <u>gift</u> ("charisma") (Rom. 6:23; 12:6).

Ex 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and <u>gracious</u>, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Dad's, we need to be gracious as God is.

Conclusion:

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"