

FATHER'S DAY 2017
A MAN WHO DESIRES GOD
Proverbs 16

Not every dad is a good dad, which means Father's Day isn't a special for every son or daughter. But there are some extraordinary men who do love God and their families with supernatural sacrifice and resolve. Every good dad is a miracle worked by God in uniquely impossible circumstances... especially in our culture today.

If your father is not the father he should be...or should have been...or if you have lost your dad, know that you have a Father who does love you perfectly and endlessly, especially on Father's Day.

The best gift a man of God can give his family is *faithful and steadfast spiritual leadership* in the home. This position of leadership is a God-given role where the husband is called to be the *"head"* of the household...which means he is to be the *priest, protector, and provider* of his home...*spiritually, emotionally, and physically*. This leadership role must be first and foremost based on *integrity and character...Christ-like character*. Unfortunately, many men show great leadership at *work* or on the *sports field*, but fail to exhibit this quality in their *home*.

Charles H. Spurgeon said, *"Character and integrity are the best tombstone. Those who love you and were helped by you will remember you. So carve your name on hearts and not on marble."*

When **David** was on his deathbed, he said to his son...

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent

of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever."

~I Chronicles 28:9

A man who desires God is...

I. A MAN OF FAITH:

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

~I Corinthians 16:13

- **Firmly rooted with deep roots.** It's like the *cedars of Lebanon*...what you see *above ground* goes *five* to *seven* times deeper *underground*. He is a man who successfully withstands the storms of life. When storms come...he remains consistent...you can count on him. He has a consistent *testimony* and *witness*...based on a *faith* with *deep roots*. He *trust* God...and His *sovereignty*!

"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

~Colossians 2:6-7

- **A man who nurtures his family...teaches** his family... is an *example* to his family. He doesn't leave the *teaching* and *spiritual nurturing* to someone else...or even the church.

"Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding, for I give you sound teaching; do not abandon my instruction."

~Proverbs 4:1-2

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

~Proverbs 22:6

II. A MAN WHO FEARS GOD:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

~Proverbs 1:7

“In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge.”

~Proverbs 14:26

“Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and turmoil with it.”

~Proverbs 15:16

Fear...from which we get the word *awe* and *awesome*.

Keep in mind...*fear* and *love* come from the same emotion.

III. A MAN WHO WALKS IN THE WAYS OF GOD:

Loving Jesus is not a matter of *doing excellent things*. It's a matter of *delighting in an exceptional* Savior.

Decisions made today will affect the future of your children. They will either bring you *grief* and *pain*...or they will bring you *joy* and *glory*. The purpose of parenting is to *develop a biblical heritage*...and *leave a biblical legacy*. **Deuteronomy 6:1-15a** talks about the legacy of God's law...by first exhorting you to commit yourself whole-heartedly to the commandments of God... and then repeat them again and again when teaching them to your *children*. You as a father have a distinct and important role in the lives and futures of your children.

You can't undo the past...but you can, by God's grace, be faithful now.

“Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

~Ephesians 4:24

- **Holiness**

- **Purity**...Men control your eyes. Teach your daughters how to value purity by controlling your eyes (ie. TV).

- **Righteousness**

“Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

~Proverbs 27:17

IV. A MAN OF CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY:

The number one need in a man is *respect*.

Key question: Is it easy for someone to respond to you with *respect*...or would it be *difficult*? Would it be genuine or would they have to compromise?

Integrity...means *above reproach*...*honesty*...*the state of being complete and undivided*. A person that *will not... does not...compromise*.

“He who walks in integrity walks securely...”

~Proverbs 10:9a

“A righteous man who walks in his integrity—how blessed are his sons after him.”

~Proverbs 20:7

“Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.”

~Proverbs 19:1

“A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold.”

~Proverbs 22:1

My sons know that I have faults...I have a lot of them...and they could stand up and attest to that fact. They could give you a list them. But I also know that there are a few things that they would also say...*“My dad is real...my dad is honest...my dad loves us...and my dad loves God!”*

- **Committed to truth:** *Knowing it...Defending it...and Depending on it.*

“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor...”

~Ephesians 4:25a

“For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth.”

~III John 1:3

Character...*One who has shown oneself true...one who is genuine and trustworthy.*

- **Driven by a Biblical worldview...**where he seeks to see everything through God’s eyes...God’s perspective.

A man who *desires God* and *seeks Him with all his heart* will be remembered for his *character*:

“How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold.”

~Proverbs 3:13-14

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge increases power.”

~Proverbs 24:3-5

If you were to have a *personal conversation* with God, what would be the *two things* that He would point out to you that needs to be addressed and changed in your life? Are you willing to do it?

V. A MAN OF THE WORD:

A man who *lives in the Word...is fed by the Word* of God. He will in turn, teach his family to love the Word (to love Jesus).

“Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

~Joshua 1:7-8

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”

~Psalm 119:11

- **Reads it**
- **Studies it**
- **Memorizes it...**the *dagger* and the *sword*. The *dagger* are *individual verses*...good for hand-to-hand fighting. The *sword* is *entire chapters*...useful in battle.
- **Meditates on it**
- **Teaches it**

VI. A MAN OF PRAYER:

If you fail to teach your child anything else...don’t neglect the area of *prayer*. Knowing how to *talk to (with) God* is one of the most valuable gifts that can be handed down to a young person.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving...”

~Colossians 4:2

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

~Philippians 4:6

The reward of the man who desires God with all his heart:

His children...*knowing* and *walking* with God.

“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”

~III John 1:4

His grandchildren...his *legacy* and *heritage*.

“Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers.”

~Proverbs 17:6

Kids need one thing...***to see their father abiding with Christ.***