

THE LEGACY OF A GODLY FATHER



PRECEPT

1 CHRONICLES 29:19

¹⁹ Give my son Solomon the wholehearted desire to obey all your commands, laws, and decrees, and to do everything necessary to build this Temple, for which I have made these preparations.

PROVERBS 13:24

²⁴ Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.

PROMISE

Studies and research all over the globe has proven the value of having a father in the home. Psychologists and behavioural scientists have studied and concluded that *“more than virtually any factor, a father’s presence in the family will determine a child’s success and happiness.”* Dr. David Blankenhorn in his research book *Fatherless America*, has the subtitle *“Confronting our most urgent social problem.”* We commonly think that it is drugs, aids, and the like that would be the world’s most urgent problem, but the root is fatherlessness in the family. Blankenhorn quotes in his research book, *“Fatherlessness is the most destructive trend of our generation.”* Even poverty is linked to fatherlessness. Time Magazine said, *“More than 47% of all families with children headed by a single mother live below the poverty line compared to 8% to 10% of those with two parents in the house.”* Many other research tells us that fatherlessness causes 4 times greater risk of poverty; 7 times likely to become pregnant as a teen; more likely to have behavioural problems; more likely to face abuse and neglect; 2 times greater risk of infant mortality; more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; more likely to go to prison; 2 times more likely to suffer obesity; more likely to commit crime; 2 times more likely to drop out of high school, and the list goes on and on. In conclusion, there is nothing worse for a society than a fatherless society. If we can only get the fathers sorted out, we can solve this huge problem ahead of us.

The Bible tells us that obedience is better than sacrifice, the book may not always tell us why we need to follow certain commands, but each of God’s laws are for the good of His people. One of God’s commands to the fathers is this, *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”* (Ephesians 5:25). If only the fathers will love their wives wholeheartedly and not pursue temporary pleasure, the foundation of the family will be stronger than ever. As a father, let us pursue to leave a legacy of a godly father to our family. Here are some simple ways to do so:

PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN. King David shows us the importance of praying for our children, not only for their success in career and other earthly things, but that his children will desire to obey all God’s commands. (1 Chronicles 29:19)

DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN. Proverbs 13:24 tells us to discipline our children if we truly love them. The world renowned evangelist Billy Graham also says, *“A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.”*

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN. Teaching our children requires us to not only teach them the skills they need in life to be successful, but to teach God’s statutes and commandments, so that it will be well with them in the days to come.

TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN. Proverbs 22:6 commands us, *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not turn away from it.”* Our children are watching us and learning from us. If they see us loving the Lord with all of our hearts, they will do the same and be inspired with the way we live our lives. May we set a good example and leave a legacy of a godly father to them.

PRACTICE

1. Heavenly Father. What does it mean to you to view the Lord as Your Heavenly Father?

2. Appreciating Your Father. What are some ways that you can display gratitude to your father/father-figure? How can you show him that you care for them?

PRAYER

I. Marriages

- May God strengthen their commitment to one another and guide them through trials.

II. Family

- Pray that our homes be filled with God’s presence, peace, unity, love, and joy.

III. Faith

- May God grant us the strength to embrace uncertainty and the faith to journey forward.

IV. Gospel

- Pray that we may have the courage and wisdom to share His Gospel to others.

V. Strength

- Pray that we may face challenges with strength and conviction, knowing that He is by our side.

VI. Unity

- Pray that God may bind us together in unity, peace, and harmony as His church.

VII. Courage

- Pray for courage to face the unknown and faith to trust in God’s guiding hand.