

“A Father’s Love”

I. Provides What’s Necessary For His Family.

- A. Our Heavenly Father provides for us our needs (**Matthew 5:45; 7:9-11**).
- B. Earthly fathers provides material necessities for the family to function well (**Genesis 3:17-19**).
 - (1) His role to work as the main “bread winner” for the family; mothers can contribute also.
 - (2) Provides Shelter, Protection, Security, and needs:
 - a. Home, Food, clothing, cell phones, transportation, paying bills— all requires money.
- C. Love = Sacrifice for the sake of the family.
 - (1) Why he goes out everyday he works— time, service, selfless-effort...
- D. Proper to do so— **1 Timothy 5:8**, Even unbelievers *know* to take care of their family!
- E. That’s why the selfish, the lazy, the uncaring, or the neglectful father doesn’t show love.
- F. But fulfilling our responsibilities in this way is one of the most loving things a father can do!

II. Shows His Children An Example To Follow.

- A. Our Heavenly Father gives us an example to Follow (**Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16**).
- B. Our earthly father is to be our example growing up:
 - (1) What a compassionate, kind, loving father looks like. (**Psalms 103:8-13**)
 - (2) What a true picture of manhood ought to be (**1 Kings 2:2**). (“Like father, like son”)
 - (3) Many young men have lost this because of absentee fathers, with harmful results!
- C. A loving father is an example of:
 - (1) Zeal in what he does— Not lazy (**Proverbs 19:15; Ecclesiastes 9:10**).
 - (2) A true Christian (**1 Timothy 4:12**) “*in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity...*”
 - (3) A good heart of forgiveness, humility, self control— not hating, lying, wrathful, addicted to drugs or alcohol, jealous, nor rude or crude (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Luke 15:20-24**).

III. Imparts Guidance & Wisdom For Living.

- A. Our Heavenly Father imparts guidance and wisdom to His children (**Proverbs 2:6-7; James 1:5**).
- B. Earthly fathers also pass on their knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that only comes from years of experience (**Proverbs 16:31; Proverbs 20:29**).
- C. How life works, knowledge by trial & error, mechanic troubleshooting, carpentry, relationship issues, cooking, sewing, practical things & spiritual knowledge. Save a lot of time and trouble if they listen.

IV. Sets Rules & Boundaries To Obey.

- A. Our Heavenly Father sets rules and boundaries to obey (**John 15:9-10; 1 John 5:2-3**).
- B. Our earthly father sets rules and boundaries too (**Ephesians 6:1-2**).
 - (1) Parents set bed time, limits on entertainment, curfew or time to be home, when and where they eat meals, to be respectful, no fighting with sister or brother, no name calling....
 - (2) May not understand why they can’t: play with fire, play in the road, water balloon fight in house.

V. Corrects & Disciplines Wrong Behavior.

- A. Our Heavenly Father Corrects and disciplines wrong behavior (**Hebrews 12:5-7; Revelation 3:19**).
- B. Our earthly father is to discipline and correct too (**Proverbs 13:24; Eph. 6:4**).
- C. It is painful (for kids and parents) but it has a purpose and desired outcome (**Hebrews 12:11**).
- D. Discipline is to be done correctly to avoid discouragement (**Ephesians 6:4a; Colossians 3:21**).

VI. Encourages Children To Do Their Best.

- A. Our Heavenly Father encourages us to do our best (**Romans 15:5**).
- B. Our earthly father is an encourager to his children (**1 Thessalonians 2:11**).
- C. Don’t ever underestimate the power of a little encouragement— it goes a long way! It can make the difference between success and failure, trying all the way or never starting, defeatist or positive att.
- D. **Philippians 4:13**; Too much pessimism in the world; Christian fathers pass this positively on to kids!

VII. Leads His Children To Their Heavenly Father.

- A. Our Heavenly leads us to seek after Him (**Acts 17:26-28; Hebrews 11:6**).
- B. Our earthly father teaches us to have faith in the God above, who is our Father (**Deuteronomy 6:20-25; Acts 16:31-34**) The jailor brought his whole house to the Lord.
- C. Fathers are to be the spiritual leader and take family to church services— worship.