

Fathers in the image of God – Matt. 6:9-14

1. God is our Father.
 - (1) Matt. 6:9 - Jesus says he is “Our Father who is in Heaven.”
 - (2) Matt. 7:11 – “He is our Father who gives good gifts”
2. Our Father is our Creator. He created us in His own image. He created us men with the capability to become fathers. What kind of fatherhood did He expect us to fulfill? He expected us to be fathers in ways that are similar to the kind of Father He is to us.
3. Our challenge as Fathers is to be the kind of Fathers God intended and expects us to be.
4. As we discuss the topic, “Fathers in the image of God”, we wish to set forth some expectations of fatherhood that we fathers are to fulfill.

DISCUSSION: Our Father in heaven expects us to be fathers who--

- I. Instruct our children in the way of the Lord
 - (1) Gen. 18:19
 - (2) Deut. 32:46-47
- II. Make adequate and proper provisions for our children
 - (1) Matt. 6:31-33
 - (2) Acts 14:17
 - (3) Phil. 4:19
- III. Are Willing to forgive our children
 - (1) Matt. 6:14
 - (2) Luke 15:20, 23-24
 - (3) Eph. 4:32
- IV. Who are a blessing to our Children and who blesses our children.
 - (1) Eph. 1:3
 - (2) Gen. 27:34 - “Bless me—me too, my father.” What a cry of anguish.
 - (3) How many children have suffered because of a fathers who held back their blessings. A father who could not be pleased. A father who would not say well done. A father who would not say, “I am proud of you.”
 - (4) How different is our heavenly father- “Well done good and faithful servant.” Matt. 25:21.
 - (5) Our Father in heaven is a God who rewards us with goodness. Material goodness and spiritual goodness and the ultimate reward - eternal life in His presence. Eph. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3; John 14:1-3;
- V. Set and example of maturity for our children.
 - (1) Matt. 5:44-48
 - (2) Put and end to racism and sexism and all prejudices.
 - (3) Put an end to black churches and white churches; white neighborhoods and black neighborhoods. “Be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect.” Treat all people as equals as He does to all peoples.
 - (4) God expects us fathers to set the example for our children.

CONCLUSION:

I. Fathers as God intended them to be are --

- (1) Fathers who instruct their children in the way of the Lord.
- (2) Fathers who make adequate and proper provisions for their children.
- (3) Fathers who are willing to forgive their children.
- (4) Fathers who set an example of maturity for their children
- (5) Fathers who are a blessing and who blesses their children.