

A BLUE PRINT FOR FATHERS

John 3:16

June 15, 2008 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. In comedian Bill Cosby's book, **Fatherhood**, He writes about the difference between Mother's Day and Father's Day. **He insists that Mother's Day is a much bigger deal because Mothers are more organized. Mothers say to their children: Now here is a list of what I want. Go get the money from your father and you surprise me on Mother's Day. You do that for me.**

For Father's Day I give each of my five kids \$20 so that they can go out and buy me a present—a total of \$100. They go to the store and buy two packages of underwear, each of which costs \$5 and contains three shorts. They tear them open and each kid wraps up one pair, the sixth going to the Salvation Army. Therefore, on Father's Day I am walking around with new underwear and my kid's are walking around with \$90 worth of my change in their pockets.

- B. What makes a good father?
1. We can find three good answers in John 3:16.
 2. This verse also tells us how our Heavenly Father relates to us too.

I. FIRST, A GOOD FATHER LOVES.

- A. Jesus says this—"For God so loved...."
- B. The moment your children were born you loved them. Period!
1. They hadn't done anything to earn your love.
 2. You loved them anyway just because they were yours.
 3. You will keep on loving them too. Its called "unconditional" love.
 4. This is the way God loves us too, unconditionally.
- C. I've never met a father who said, "I don't love my children."
1. Of course, fathers love their children, but here's where men often drop the ball, though, we don't express it.
 2. Your children and your wife can't read your mind. They can only hear what you say or don't say.
 3. God, however, expresses his for us for over and over—Jeremiah 31:3.

II. SECOND, A GOOD FATHER GIVES.

- A. This is what Jesus says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...."
- B. Fathers give primarily two things to their children: money and time.
1. Both things are important.
 2. And an abundance of one does not negate the need for the other.
- C. Robert Schuler, pastor of The Crystal Cathedral in California, once said, "I became a failure at golf so I could become a success as a father."
1. Are there some things you should become a failure at today so you can become a success as a father? i.e. sports, career, hobbies, etc.
 2. Keep in mind, though, that if your earthly father has not or will not give you his time, your Heavenly Father will-Hebrews 13:5.

III. THIRD, A GOOD FATHER SAVES HIS CHILDREN.

- A. This is what Jesus says, “that whosoever believes shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
- B. Our Heavenly Father promises to save all who believe in His Son-17.
- C. Unlike our Heavenly Father, fathers today cannot save their children, but they can help them to be saved. How?
 1. Make the decision to be saved yourself-Acts 16:30-33.
 2. Pray for your children to be saved.
 3. Provide opportunities for your children to be saved.
- D. John Grisham's book ***The Testament*** begins with a story about a man who succeeded in business beyond what most people could imagine, amassing a fortune of eleven billion dollars. Along the way, he married three times and fathered seven children in those marriages. He provided for all of them financially (but he was emotionally absent as a father), and never expected much of them. He gave each child a no-strings-attached gift of \$5 million on their 21st birthday, and each child squandered the money. Eventually, each child wound up deep in debt, resentful of their father, eagerly waiting for him to die so they could collect their share of his will. Though this man was a success in the eyes of the world, he was a failure as a father and his children paid the price.

CONCLUSION

- A. There are no perfect fathers any more than there are perfect mothers.
- B. However, men can be better fathers by following the blue print Jesus gave us in John 3:16.
 1. Good fathers love.
 2. Good fathers give.
 3. Good fathers save their children.