

A PICTURE OF DAD

I Thessalonians 2:7-12

June 21, 2009 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

A. THE DEFINITION OF BARBECUING

It's the only type of cooking a "real man" will do. When a man volunteers to do the 'BBQ' the following chain of events is put into motion:

- 1) The woman goes to the store.
- 2) The woman fixes the salad, vegetables, and dessert.
- 3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils, and takes it to the man, who is lounging beside the grill.
- 4) The man places the meat on the grill.
- 5) The woman goes inside to set the table and check the vegetables.
- 6) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning.
- 7) The man takes the meat off the grill and hands it to the woman.
- 8) The woman prepares the plates and brings them to the table.
- 9) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.
- 10) Everyone praises the man and thanks him for his cooking efforts.
- 11) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed "her night off." And, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.

B. Today, we look at a picture of a dad found in our text.

1. First, it's a picture of Paul as a Spiritual father to the Thessalonians—**2:11**.

¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,

2. Second, it's a picture of a godly dad.

3. What does a godly dad look like?

I. FIRST, A GODLY DAD EXPRESSES LOVE TO HIS CHILDREN.

A. This is what Paul did—**2:7-8a**

⁷ but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸ We loved you so much

B. Expressing love, though, doesn't come natural for most men.

1. Perhaps this is why the Bible instructs men to love their wives, because men need to learn how to do this.

2. The Bible rarely tells women to love their husbands because that comes more naturally for them. However, the Bible does instruct them to respect their husbands, which may be more difficult to do.

C. Do you remember men when you brought your first child home. You didn't know anything about how to take care of them. But your wife did. Why? It came naturally to them. For instance....

1. Wives know to support a baby's neck.

2. Wives know to be careful of a baby's soft spot.

3. Wives know when to feed babies.

4. Wives know when to change a baby's diaper.

5. Men, however, have to learn all of this, especially, how to change a diaper!

D. Our best example of a loving dad is God. Of course, Calvary is the best place to look for this. But, the story of the Prodigal Son is another.

1. How did this prodigal son know he could go back home after he had ruined his life? No doubt because his dad had continually expressed his love for him, just like he did when the boy came home.

2. Did you know that God's door is always open to us too when we mess our own lives up.
We can always go back home.

II. SECOND, A GODLY DAD LEADS A GODLY LIFE IN FRONT OF HIS CHILDREN.

- A. This is what Paul says—**2:8b**.

⁸ **We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us**

- B. Godly dads don't just talk about God, they also lead godly lives in front of their children.

III. THIRD, A GODLY DAD IS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF HIS HOME.

- A. This is what Paul says—**2:10**

¹⁰ **You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.**

- B. God has commissioned men to be the spiritual leader of their homes.
 1. You are either leading your children closer to God or further away from God.
 2. Men do this by example. Either a positive or negative one.

IV. FOURTH, A GODLY DAD HAS A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON HIS CHILDREN.

- A. This is what Paul says—**2:11-12**.

¹¹ **For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,**
¹² **encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.**

- B. Dan Benson, in his book "**The Total Man**," says that for every positive word that most dads say to their children, they say 10 negative ones. They're really good at words like "Don't" & "You can't" & "Stop that," & "No." But they're not very good at the positive words. Benson suggests that we could change the whole personality of our relationship with our children if we just learned to be positive, & influence things in a positive way.

CONCLUSION

- A. Knowing how to BBQ is a good thing.
- B. Knowing how to be a godly dad is better. Remember, a godly dad.....
 1. Expresses love to his children.
 2. Leads a godly life in front of his children.
 3. Is the spiritual leader of his home.
 4. Has a positive influence on his children.