

A Good Good Father!
Father's Day

Psalm 103:8-14

June 17, 2018

One of my favorite quotes comes from **Theodore Hesburgh**. “The most important thing a father can do for his children is to **love their mother**.”

The same can **also be said of Mothers!**

As a Christian Father we have the **Perfect Example** of how to be a Father. Oh we could look at **Adam** (Flawed), **Noah** (Flawed) **Abraham** (Flawed) **Jacob** (Flawed), **Moses** (Flawed), **David** (Flawed), and **Joseph the earthly father of Jesus** (Flawed).

Psalm 103:8-14 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

I. **As a Christian Father** You are to display the **Slowness of The Father's Anger (8-9)** The LORD is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger** and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, **do not provoke** your children **to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

When Paul penned this admonishment, it was a totally new concept for this culture. In fact Paul here is calling for Parenting to be totally Revolutionized!

John MacArthur writes in his commentary on Ephesians: "In Roman society *pa-tria po-test-as*, that is, the authority of the head of the house, gave the father virtual life and death power over not only his slaves but over his entire household. He could cast any of them out of the house, sell them as slaves, or even kill them-and be accountable to no one.

A newborn child was placed at its father's feet to determine its fate. If the father picked it up, the child was allowed to stay in the home; if the father walked away, it was simply disposed of-much as aborted babies are in our own day.

Seneca, a renowned statesman in Rome at the time Paul wrote the Ephesian letter, said, "We slaughter a fierce ox; we strangle a mad dog; we plunge a knife into a sick cow. Children born weak or deformed we drown."

As a Christian Father we have a duty to our family to remain, at all times, under control. **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, **self-control**; against such things there is no law.

II. **As a Christian Father** You are to display the **Strength of The Father's Mercy!** (10-11) He does not **deal with us according to our sins**, nor **repay us according to our iniquities.** ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his **steadfast love** toward those who fear him;

The Grace of God is always being extended to you! When you **Accept God's Grace** by Faith is when you **Receive God's Mercy!**

Ephesians 2:8-9 For **by grace** you have been **saved through faith.** And this is **not your own doing;** it is the **gift of God,** ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Mercy and Grace are often confused as they are similar.

- **God's Mercy** is **not receiving** something we deserve! (Death) **Romans 6:23a** For the **wages** of sin is death,
- **God's Grace** is **receiving** something we did not earn or deserve! (Forgiveness, Acceptance, Eternal Life) This comes through Jesus Christ! **Romans 6:23b** **but** the free gift of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As a Christian Father we have a duty to our family to extend both **Mercy & Grace.**

III. **As a Christian Father** You are to display the **Scope of The Father's Forgiveness** (12-13) as **far** as the east is from the west, so far does he **remove** our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father **shows compassion to his children,** so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Charles Stanley tells a story about forgiveness: When he was a boy, around 12 years old, he was seated at the dinner table for Thanksgiving. He said he was a bit clumsy as most 12 year-olds are and when he reached for his milk he turned the glass over spilling the milk that ran all over the table. Everyone went silent as they awaited the response of his Grandfather seated opposite of young Charles. His Grandfather **stared intently** at young Charles, reached for his glass and pushed it over spilling his milk as well.

There are **two sides** of Forgiveness!

- **The Positive Side**: **Matthew 6:14** For if you **forgive others** their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
- **The Negative Side**: **Matthew 6:15** but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The 103rd Psalm was David's Hallelujah Chorus. David is Praising God for His Mercy, Grace and Forgiveness. Notice that David has measured God's **Forgiveness in terms of distance**. **(12-13) *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*** The distance east from west indicates infinity. God has infinitely forgiven our sins!

Forgiveness is not an option: **Colossians 3:13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so **you also must forgive**.

As a Christian Father we have a duty to our family to extend Forgiveness, (To quote Buzz Lightyear) **“To Infinity and beyond!”**

IV. **As a Christian Father** You are to display the Security of The Father’s Knowledge (14) For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

God made Diamond’s from that Dust!

In the song **“Good Good Father”** that we sang today we **embrace this truth!**

You're a good good father

It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are

And I'm loved by you

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Humanity is The Crown Jewel of God’s creation made of dust, **made in His own image!**

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us

Genesis 2:7 then the LORD God **formed the man of dust from the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

We are **Image Bearers** and as Image Bearers we are to **pursue Him** so we can **be like Him!**

Do you have a Hero? As a Teenager my hero was **Pete Rose!** I **read** everything I could find about him. I **copied** my style of play after him.

Praise Team Takes The Platform.