

If I Could Build a Father

The role of fathers today has been analyzed, criticized, and pulverized. Our culture tends to learn towards the idea that Dads are no longer important in the family, but the Bible says it's quite the opposite.

Proverbs 17:6 says, "The glory of children is their father."

Psalm 124:1-4 says, "Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD."

Despite all the negativity we often hear, it still takes a man to be a husband and a father, who will lead his family down the straight and narrow path that leads to life.

During the time of Ezekiel, the Israelites were in a very dangerous situation. In Ezek 22:30 God spoke these words, "I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

The wall spoken about here is not talking about a literal wall made with stones, but faithful men who would be willing to take a stand for what was right.

God said, "I'm looking for a man who would build a wall."

One of the attributes that I see many of the men have in this congregation is the ability to build.

Jesus, being a carpenter was no stranger to building projects. In Matt 7:24, Jesus said, If you anyone hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

When talking about the family, Solomon wrote in Psalm 127, "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."

Heb. 3:4 "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."

God is the builder of everything, and I would also add that God is in the business of building great fathers. If we could get our minds together to build a father, what kind of father would we build? What kind of attributes would we want a father to have according to the scriptures found in the Bible?

I. I would build a Dad who Loves God:

It's been said that a child is not likely to find a father in God unless they find something of God in their father.

In John 8:42, Jesus spoke to some Jews who were bragging about how Abraham/God was their father “Jesus said to them, “If Abraham was your father you would do the deeds of Abraham. If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here.”

In Matthew 22, Jesus was asked, “Which commandments is the greatest?” Jesus answered by saying, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” (37-38)

II. I would build a Father who imitates Jesus: (1 Cor 11:1)

To the struggling Christians in Corinth, Paul says “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

Paul knows he’s not perfect, but like a father speaking to a child he says, “Follow my lead. Imitate Me. Try to do what I am doing which is to imitate Christ in word, thought and deed.”

Here’s a great lesson for us. Can I say to my children, imitate me as I imitate Christ? I would like to present a few characters who were father and son. See if you can tell me what they have in common.

#1. Solomon and Rehoboam: 1 Kings 3:3, compare with 1 Kings 14:23.

#2. Asa and his son Jeshosaphat: 1 Kings 15:11, compare with 1 Kings 22:41.

#3. Amaziah and Azariah: 2 Kings 14:3, compare with 2 Kings 15:3.

#4. Uzziah and Jotham (11 Kings 15:34)

Those were somewhat good kings now let’s look at some bad kings.

#1. King Nebat and Abijam (1 Kings 15:3)

#2. Jeroboam and his son Nadab (1 Kings 15:24)

#3. Ahab and son Jerhoram: (11 Kings 3:2)

What do all of these kings have in common? They all followed what their father had done.

To all of the Dads, let it be our goal to imitate Jesus so God can describe our children as walking as their father did.

III. I would build a father who loves the Bride of Christ:

Who is the bride that Jesus loves and adores? His church.

Eph 5:25 says, “Husbands, love you wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.”

2 Cor 11:2 Paul said, "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

There is another part of Eph 5:25 we need to think about. "Husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loves the church."

4. I would build a father who plays with his children:

Eli could run the temple but could not run his family; I Sam. 3:13.

David could run a kingdom and lead men into battle but could not run his children; I Kings 1:5,6.

I believe the main reason why these men of God had problems is because they did not spend time with their children.

In Mark 10:13-16, Parents brought their children to Jesus so he might touch them. "Mathew 19:13 adds, to pray with them. Some of the disciples tried to keep the children from getting to close. "They rebuked those who brought the children."

Did the Son of God have time for children? Jesus said, "Let the young children come to me; do not try to stop them." He then lovingly received a group of children by taking them in his arms.

Jesus showed that He was willing to give children His attention.

Love to children is spelled T-I-M-E.

5. I would build a Father who teaches their kids about salvation:

When a parent dies, usually their children can expect to receive an inheritance. Sometimes that inheritance involves riches and sometimes it doesn't, but the greatest inheritance a child can receive are riches in heaven.

Thousands of years ago, King Solomon, a man with enough money to give his kids any material thing on earth, declared, "Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble" (Prov 15:16).

Eph 6:4, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

In Mark 8:36 Jesus asked, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

Close: If you could build a Father what kind of Father would you Build?

I would build a father who loves God, imitates Jesus, Loves the church, plays with his children and teaches them about salvation.