

Strong Fathers

June 20, 2021

I. What does it mean to be a godly father?

Fatherhood was one of the first jobs God gave men. Immediately after creating Adam and Eve, God commanded them to “be fruitful and multiply” (Gen 1:28)

“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be **fruitful and multiply** and **fill the earth and subdue it**, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Fathers together with their wife shape the child's self-image and influence their destiny. Fathers fulfill their role the best when they reflect their Heavenly Father's heart for moral development and excellence with their families. How is this accomplished? What will it take for a father to lead his family as God would? It will take a lot of hard work. It will take being **S.T.R.O.N.G.**

Seeker after God-- in Word, prayer, and service

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)

Teacher -- sharing God's truth in word and in deed

“And you, fathers, do not irritate your children, but bring them up tenderly with true Christian training and advice.” (Eph 6:4)

Responsible Promise-Keeper—dependable and diligent

“Now if anyone **does not provide** for the own, and especially **his** household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Tim 5:8)

“For even the Son of Man did **not** come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Organizer-- A manager, a problem-solver/troubleshooter

"But all things must be done **properly** and in an **orderly** way." (1 Cor 14:40)

Nurturer-- An encourager and challenger to Christlikeness

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the **Lord your God goes with you**; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut 31:6)

Good Listener—Hears with his ears and heart

“The purpose in a man's **heart** is like deep water, but a man of understanding will **draw it out**” Prov 20:5

Questions for discussion:

1) What aspect of your **heart** are you holding back?

Holy living by His Spirit—“Draw near to God, but **resist** the devil” (James 4:7)

Exclusive loyalty to God—“Worship only the Lord God and serve **no other**.” (Luke 4:8)

All His commands—“If you love me, you will **keep my commandments**.” (John 14:15)

Renewed by His word—“Be transformed by the renewing of your **mind**.” (Rom 12:2)

Testifying of His love —“A new command I give you: **Love one another** as I have loved you... (John 13:34)

2) In what ways do we irritate or provoke children to anger? What have you observed in your own life or seen in the life of others?

3) “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12 How can a dad be better at this? Look at: Luke 24:13-35 In what ways did Jesus relate to the disciples? What were some of His communications skills?