

3 INFLUENTIAL ROLES FATHERS PLAY IN THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES



Cornerstone Bible Church

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Introduction:

- “If I were the Devil, here’s what I’d do...”
- Men today feel discouraged, un-supported, and under-educated in their role as Fathers.

Paul’s Defense of His Ministry (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)

The Apostle Paul’s explanation of his ministry using the family as an illustration.

- Verse 7 As Nursing Mothers
- Verse 9 As Fellow Siblings
- Verse 11 As Fathers

7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

*10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, **as a father does his own children**, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*

3 Influential Roles Fathers Play in Their Children’s Lives

- **Exhorting/Urging:** The Imploring _____
- **Comforting/Consoling:** The Comforting _____
- **Charging/Testifying:** The Testifying _____

The Goal:

“To have children live lives worthy of God, who calls them into his kingdom and glory.”

Relevance: “But, I’m Not A Father!”

Don’t think that because you might not be a father that this message doesn’t relate to you!

- If we desire to see the American family, especially the Christian family stabilized we need to support, encourage and pray for fathers nationally and especially for dads in our local families and churches.
- If we desire to see less young men raised in single-parent homes, joining gangs in pursuit of alternative families, incarcerated in prisons, less children seeking comfort through illegal drug use, less women looking for love and acceptance in all the wrong places, more godly morality ascribed to and lived out in our younger generations – we need to support, encourage and pray for fathers.
- If we desire to see men instructed and mutually-supporting each other in order to embrace their God-ordained role as high-impact fathers – we need to support, encourage and pray for fathers.

Application:

For Fathers: (and Perhaps Grandfathers as well!)

1. Don’t buy into the world’s lie that you don’t really matter. **YOU DO!**
2. Choose to believe in the importance of your role as declared by God. **IT IS!**
3. Pray for your father effectiveness. **YOU NEED IT!**
4. Seek instruction for your role as a dad. **YOU MUST HAVE IT!**
5. Locate other men who can assist you in being all that God has called you to be. **YOU MUST PURSUE IT!**
6. Accept that no man can be the “Perfect Father”, but keep pressing on to reach your goal.

For Everyone Else:

- Support, Encourage and Pray for fathers – they certainly need it and deeply desire it.

A Closing Thought:

Earthly fathers have the power to shape their children’s concept of their relationship with their Heavenly Father. This is a supreme reason for us to take fathering so seriously. It also helps us understand why the devil works so tirelessly to see men fail in their effectiveness and to direct society to de-value their place of importance.

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
(Psalm 103:13)*

If you (earthly fathers), then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:11)