

Fatherhood

Better to burn than turn
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Creative Genius

God created all that we see and know.

- The infinite expanse of billions of galaxies
- A unique planet specifically capable of sustaining life
- Plants and animals from scratch

This isn't just chaotic creativity. There is a purpose in every detail. From the quantum physics to sub-atomic quarks. They all work together in fantastic and delicate balance.

The intricate details of God's creativity reveal an order in which His perfect will can be accomplished. A closer look can help us see that God has reasons for doing things the way He does.

Genesis 1:27 says, 'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'

Too fast, you may read that scripture and conclude, 'Okay, got it. God made people.' Look again. Notice the far-reaching ramifications of God's creative authority. God didn't just create people. He created gender. In creating gender, He also created unique roles, relational opportunities and gender specific responsibilities.

When God created man and woman, He made them uniquely interdependent parts of a greater whole. Family. God commands the genders to be fruitful and multiply. This they must do together within the context of family. Fathers plus mothers plus children equal family.

Fathers

In His divine wisdom, God was exquisitely precise when he created gender. He created men and women in such a way that they each are specifically suited to their God given roles. Fathers and mothers are distinct. From their DNA to their temperaments, God created men and women, fathers and mothers, to be two different kinds of people who need each other.

God created males with inherent qualities that preeminently equip them for the role of fatherhood. God then gave us His Word explaining His intent giving gender specific instruction. God's intention for fathers includes:

- Being the servant leaders of their households (Families) (I Chr 5.24, ch 9)
- Loving mothers as Christ loves the Church
- Giving themselves for the sakes of their households
- Providing for the needs of their households
- Serving as spiritual servant/leaders
- Protecting their households
- Instructing, teaching and equipping the individual members of their households (Ps 78)
- Laying up inheritance for their households
- Accepting responsibility for the iniquity of their households
- Being God's instrument of blessing to their households
- Recounting the history of God's deliverance and provision Ps 44.1)
- Facilitating worship and feasts
- Speaking blessing over individuals and households
- Consecrating their households (I Chr 15.12)
- Being responsible for the spiritual condition of their households (II Chr 34.21, Ez 5.21)

Consider these five environs where Biblical fatherhood occurs.

- Family Structure
- Family System
- Family Culture
- Family History
- Family Legacy

Family Structure

Family structure has to do with the fundamental basis of the bonds that create a unique household. In this instance, household is defined as any arrangement of relationships where people share one home. Some family structures are formed on the tightly cohesive basis of Biblical covenant marriage while others are formed on the basis of looser ties such as cohabitation. Biblical fatherhood is intended to occur on the solid foundation of Biblical covenant relationships that men cultivate, initiate and are committed to. (I Co 7)

Family System

Family systems relate to the network of families that are somehow connected to each other. No household is an island unto itself. All families are connected to other families. We refer to that network of families as a family system. While family systems can tend to roughly reflect equilateral balance within the system, sometimes family systems can be inordinately impacted by the extremes of single families within the network. Biblical fatherhood requires men, as much as possible, to facilitate unity, evangelism, discipleship, worship and fellowship among the families within their family systems. (Jos 24, Ju 6)

Family Culture

Family culture is the blend beliefs, values, principles and customs that exist within unique households and perhaps to a greater or lesser degree within family systems. During the last several decades, tight family networks, where rich family cultures were uniformly shared among individual households within given family networks have declined. Biblical fatherhood requires men to know and actively promote Biblical belief, values, life principles and customs, first in their own households and then, as much as possible, in other households in their family systems. (Je 35.18-19)

Family History

Family history is simply story of what happened in the past. It is what it is. However, the history of tomorrow is written by the acts of today. Biblical fatherhood requires men to positively impact family histories by proactively and positively influencing and initiating activities in their families that will write histories that both honor God's miraculous might and are a blessing to read. (Ps 78)

Family Legacy

Family legacy is distinct from family history. While family history looks back, family legacy looks back and reaches forward. Strong, Biblical family legacies don't just happen. Biblical fatherhood requires men:

- Accept and abide God's generational design of the family cycle (Ex 20.5)
- Eliminate generational curses (1 Sa 3)
- Cultivate generational blessings
- Consecrate and purify themselves and their households (Le 16.11)
- Cut off opportunities for the enemy to steal, kill and destroy (Jn 10.10, Mt 12.29, Lu 11.21)
- Preach the Word (Ac 16.32)