
What Does God Expect a Father to Be?

God's Take on Earthly Fathers (Hebrews 12:3-11):

⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

God's Target All Men Are to Aim For (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence...

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT A FATHER TO BE?: 5 PRIMARY BIBLICAL ROLES

Role #1: I Am to Be a _____ to the Mother of My Children

a) By _____ with Her Jointly (Genesis 1:27-28)

So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

b) By _____ Her Sacrificially (Eph 5:25)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her

c) By _____ Her Continually (Eph 5:26-27)

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Role #2: I Am to Be a _____ of My Family

a) I Am to Protect My _____ (Ps 68:5)

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, [Is] God in His holy habitation.

b) I Am to Protect My _____ (Isa 1:17)

Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Role #3: I Am to Be a _____ for My Family

a) Of _____

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matt 7:11)

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

b) Of _____

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit." (Mark 9:17-27)

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Role #4: I Am to Be an _____ To My Children

a) FACT: My Children Are _____!

Children's children [are] the crown of old men, And the glory of children [is] their father. (Proverbs 17:6)

b) ACT: Be Their _____, and Prompt Them to _____ It!

My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways. (Proverbs 23:26)

Role #5: I Am to Be a _____ To My Children

a) To _____ My Children to God (Deut 6:1-25; Psalm 78:1-8)

"Now this [is] the commandment, [and these are] the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe [them] in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² "that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deut 6:1-2,6-7)

b) To _____ My Children From Sin (Psalms 78:1-8; Prov 5)

Give ear, O my people, [to] my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, ³ Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide [them] from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. ⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; ⁶ That the generation to come might know [them], The children [who] would be born, [That] they may arise and declare [them] to their children, ⁷ That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; ⁸ And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation [that] did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God. (Psalm 78:1-8)

My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. (Prov 1:10)

c) To _____ My Children from Error (Eph 6:4; Hebrews 12:5-11)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

d) To _____ My Children in God's Wisdom (Deut 6:1-9; Proverbs)

Dads, we are to work diligently to be perfect fathers.
You will not measure up in any given area on any given day.

The key is not perfection, but direction.
We must keep on keeping on in the right direction, despite our failures.

Are you heading in the direction God wants for fathers?
Are you seeking to practice the roles of godly fatherhood?