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## What Kind of Father Should I Be? God the Father is Our Example

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### I. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

**John 3:16** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** <sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Fathers – We are to be loving our children. This involves sacrifice on our part in order to do what is best for them. As God sacrificed Himself and gave good things to us through that sacrifice, so we should sacrifice ourselves for our children.

### II. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ to Us.

**James 1:17** <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

**Matthew 7:11** <sup>11</sup> "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!

Fathers – we should be givers of good things to our children. Sometimes this can be hard, because the good things our children need are not what they want and are not always the most pleasant. We must get beyond ourselves to do what is good for our children.

### III. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ for Us.

**Matthew 5:44-48** <sup>44</sup> "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? <sup>48</sup> "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

#### **Psalm 37:25-26; Matthew 6:31-32**

Fathers – we should be providers for our family. We understand that God is the ultimate provider. However, we must be diligent to provide for our children's physical and spiritual needs. It is our job and our duty.

IV. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ Us

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Fathers – we should be comforters to our children. Of course we must comfort them in the truth. We must reassure them of God's control, of His love, of His provision, etc.

V. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

**Hebrews 12:5-10** <sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." <sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup> 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? <sup>10</sup> 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.

Fathers – are we chastening our children as God chastens us? We need to discipline and instruct our children so that they grow into the men and women that God wants them to be.

VI. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

**1 Peter 1:17** <sup>17</sup> And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear;

Fathers – we must try to be a fair judge of our children; discerners of what is going on in their lives.

VII. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

Luke 15 – Prodigal Son

Fathers – we must be ready to forgive our children as they realize their sin and turn from it. We cannot hold grudges against them. We cannot hold their mistakes over their heads.

VIII. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

**2 John 1:4** <sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

Fathers – we must step up and be teachers of our children. We are charged with their instruction and training.