

FATHERHOOD - The Lord's Gift

Psalms 127

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Father: man who begets / raises / nurtures a child. Male parent - to acknowledge responsibility (Webster & other sources)
- B. Psa 127:3 translated by Ronald Knox, "Fatherhood itself is the Lord's gift, the fruitful womb is a reward that comes from Him."
- C. Set within context of declaring prosperity to those who labor within the walls erected by the Lord is the declaration of the blessing of fatherhood.
- D. With every gift God gives comes great responsibility to care for that which we have been given.
- E. God gives to each a relationship: whether child to father, or father to children, it is designed and ordained of God.
- F. By observing Vs.1-3 we learn the vanity of refusing to allow God to direct and govern these relationships.

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD IS THE FATHER OF ALL. (Eph. 4:6)

- A. Father has authority, ones submitting are in His house
- B. Demonstrated fatherhood: provided for Matt 6:25-34; sacrificed: Jhn 3:16; Rom 5:8,9; Instructed: Jhn 15:26; 2Pet 1:3; gave name: Acts 4:12; 1Jhn 3:1; 2Pet 1:4

II. GOD DESIGNED FAMILY: EACH MEMBER HAS ROLE FATHERHOOD CARRIES RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Honorable position in this structure is the Father.
 1. In procreation father has role in origin of life.
 2. Origin not end of responsibility, but beginning.
- B. Responsibilities:
 1. Love, Provide, and Protect: Deut 1:31; Psa 103:13 pities = loves deeply, compassionately
 2. Train and Educate: Deut 4:9; Prov 22:6
 3. Discipline and Instruct: Prov 13:24;19:18; 23:13; Eph. 6:4 (but not provoke children to wrath)
- C. Not domineering tyrant, but accepting God given responsibility, upholding that honorable position.
- D. Seriousness of this responsibility shown in 1Tim 5:8

III. FATHER HONORED AND RESPECTED

- A. On what basis do we establish this respect and honor?
 1. God as father is source of & determines man's nature, establishing regard creation should have for Creator.
 2. Acknowledge father as part of us & we part of them. "This is Right..." Eph. 6:2-3
- B. Father as authority commands and demands respect.
 1. In O. T. father almost unlimited power over family

2. Could sell daughter into slavery Ex 21:7 (A little different than "giving her away" today.

3. Rebellious child could be stoned Deut 21:18-21

C. Honor and respect commanded Ex 20:12; Prov 23:22

IV. RESPECT CRITICAL TO SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING.

- A. Ordained by God: violation brings sin and separation.
- B. Failing to honor and respect our fathers reveals a lack of character and integrity. Prov 15:5; 19:26.
- C. Robs us of joys and blessings physical and spiritual
 1. Under O. T. birthright to oldest, due to Reuben's sin, given to Joseph Gen 35:22, 49:4; 1Chron 5:1
 2. Inheritance from fathers Prov 19:14
 3. Brings wisdom and understanding Prov 4:1-13
- D. Ability to esteem earthly fathers properly commensurate with recognition of God as Father of spirits and our willingness to submit to His authority Heb 12:9-11

V. RELATIONSHIP WITH FATHER INDURES

- A. Bond established, is stronger than pains of emotion.
- B. A bond broken by rebellion of the child, yet love of a father continues to hope and pray for union.
- C. Absalom and David. (2Sam) Absalom lifted up with pride, rebellion established him as an enemy, and almost took fathers throne, when killed David said; "my son, my son, if only I had died in your place." 2Sam 18:33
- D. Father of Prodigal illustrates fathers love for son.
 1. Recognized son as free moral agent, ability to choose for himself; gave what was his and allowed him to go.
 2. Son failed; brought reproach to family; yet thoughts of father's love lead him home. Lk 15:18
 3. Upon return, father's concern evident Lk 15:20
 4. Such accounts teach us about a father's love.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Father to be honored and respected because God placed on him an awesome responsibility. A task that calls for judgment, discretion, and back bone.
- B. Honor and respect comes much easier to the child whose father has shouldered his God given responsibilities
- C. Father must realize need of child to have **roots & wings**. Roots ground children, giving stability and growth. Wings allow them to soar, seeing beyond worldly, temporal allurements and providing them with vision for tomorrow and eternity through the light of God's word.
- D. None are fatherless who are members of Lord's family. Mark 10:29,30

(Ideas from lesson by Dennis Carrow)