

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE, 'DAD' IS THE QUESTION

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### A. Father's are not 'optional equipment.'

*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4

- Paul's assumption is that fathers are intimately involved, by necessity, in the raising of children. So that when he talks about the process of shaping a child's life, he naturally addresses fathers.
- Back then, fathers were involved in passing along life skills that would enable their children to live, function outside the home. They were involved in preparation for marriage, and very often in the selection of a life partner. They were involved in the moral and religious education of their children.

### B. Winning the 'Daddy Game.'

*"After Jesus said this He looked toward heaven and He prayed, 'Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You've given Him. This is eternal life that they may know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do.'" John 17:1-4*

#### 1. Help them know God.

*"I have revealed You to the ones You gave me from this world. They were always Yours. You gave them to me," John 17:6*

- We don't own our children - they belong to God.

*"I have revealed You to the ones You gave me from this world. They were always Yours. You gave them to me," John 17:6*

- Notice He doesn't say, "I preached, I sermonized, I pontificated on what You were like to those You gave me."
- "Revealed" carries with it the idea that these things were seen – revealed - Jesus led by example.
  - a) God is: caring
  - b) God is: close
  - c) God is: consistent
  - d) God is: competent
- We are called to set the same example to our children so that they have insight into God's character.

*"I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for me may be in them." John 17:26*

*"This is eternal life that they may know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*  
John 17:3

## 2. Teach them God's Word.

- The word of God is our foundation. It's what we build our lives on and our children's lives on. It is the truth. It's solid. It's our guidebook.
- By reading, memorizing, singing.

*"I have passed on to them the message You gave Me."* John 17:8

*"I have given them Your Word."* John 17:14

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* John 8:32

*"Do everything without complaining and arguing."* Philippians 2:14

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* Psalm 119:105

## 3. Pray for them.

- Jesus prayed for the people He was leading.

*"I pray for them. I'm not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours."*  
John 17:9

a) That they will live for Christ joyfully.

*"I pray these things while I'm still in the world so that they will have the same joy that I have."* John 17:13

b) That they will grow strong spiritually.

*"I'm not asking You to take them out of the world but to keep them safe from the evil one."* John 17:15

c) That they will serve Christ effectively.

*"Make them ready for Your service through Your truth. Your teaching is truth."* John 17:17

d) That they will bring others to Christ.

*"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message."* John 17:20

e) That they will experience true fellowship – LOVE

*"My prayer is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as You and I are one, Father...so that the world will believe You sent Me."* John 17:21 (LB)

- Deep inside every human being there is a hunger to know about the place in the heart of your father.
- Open your heart to your child. Dads, don't keep your heart a secret. Find ways to value your child and make sure that your child feels loved, because every child hungers to know his or her place in the father's heart, and that hunger never goes away.
- For better or for worse, by your presence or by your absence, you stand at the heart of your child's world.

## C. The Final:

- We'll all get to play the game one final time. And then all of us who have committed our lives to God will say... Daddy – Abba – Father – I'm home!