

18 June 2017

Happy Father's Day

The Father Heart Of God

Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and 19 say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" So they began to celebrate.

**The more time I spend with the God the Father...
The more I hear His voice**

**Dear Father
He wrote
I WANT TO
COME HOME**

**The righteous man walks in his integrity;
His children are blessed after him.**

Proverbs 20:7 (New King James Version)



Dominating Fathers

Function as if *they* are the source of guidance for people's lives.

Emphasize the *rights* of leaders.

Set leaders apart and give them special privileges.

Seek to control people's actions.

Emphasize the importance of the leaders ministering to others.

Use rules and laws to control people and force them to conform to a mold.

Confront sin on the level of out-ward actions and group conformity.

Stress the uniqueness of "our" group, constantly emphasizing special revelation God has given to their group and not to others.

Judge people's responses to God on how consistently they see things from the leader's point of view. Discourage diversity of thought and action.

Fathers in the Lord

Believe that *God* is the source of guidance and desire to help other Christians learn to hear His voice.

Emphasize the *responsibilities* of leaders.

Emphasize the members of the body of Christ serving one another, with the Lord as the focus.

Encourage people to be dependent on God.

Emphasize the importance of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.

Provide an atmosphere of trust and grace to encourage spiritual growth.

Confront sin on the level of heart attitude and brokenness before God.

Stress the importance of unity with the whole body of Christ and the importance of keeping a humble attitude toward others.

Realize the importance of an individual's heart attitude toward God as a basis of unity-not just his or her doctrinal conformity.