

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray that fathers and fatherhood would be honored

Intro – Father’s Day has fallen in the middle of our series “*Discerning God’s Will*.” Though this message is not part of that series; it could be. For it is God’s will that we honor our fathers and fatherhood (Matt. 15:4). Any country, or culture, that dishonors fathers is inviting a curse and a short lifespan (Ex. 20:12; Mal. 4:6). It is God’s will that men be trained and encouraged to be fathers and father figures. God made men to father someone. Even if a man doesn’t have a child, men are designed to be a dad to someone. It is also God’s will that men be good fathers and godly fathers. Our text today lists some qualities that a man is to employ in his role as a father. The apostle used these as he ministered to a church. Paul was their *father in the faith* and he tried to parent them well. We are all called to either *emulate* or *appreciate* these good fatherly qualities.

*1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 - Father’s Day 2025**PUBLIC PARENTING*

- 1 Thess. 2:10
 - The way Paul parented this church was obvious to both God and man.
 - They witnessed how he conducted himself around them.
 - Paul was devout, upright and blameless...and it was noticed by others.
- God is watching. People are watching. Our kids are watching.
 - What do others *witness* about your parenting and what would they say?
 - Ask someone what they see or notice about you as a parent. (if you dare)
 - Others can often see things about you that you can’t. (we’re oblivious to what is obvious)
- Be open about your fatherly affection.
 - Life altering experience when I observed a dad embrace & kiss his sons in public
 - I didn’t know you could or should do that.

EXHORTING

- 1 Thess. 2:11 The first fatherly quality listed is “exhorting.”
 - Also translated “encouraging”
 - Greek word “*parakaleto*” (3870) = “*to call along side*” or “*to comfort*”
 - A form of this word is used of God the Holy Spirit.
 - The Helper / Comforter - John 14:26
 - “*to beseech with a stronger force*”
- A father is to use his power and position to come along side and encourage the child.
 - (video) Derek Redmond’s father help him across the finish line – 1992 Olympics
 - A father’s presence is to be close to his child...at their side
 - The help and comfort is transferred in close proximity...not at a distance
 - That closeness upholds, exhorts, encourages and motivates
 - Are you by the side of your child? Men, who are you *coming along side of* to father?

ENCOURAGING

- 1 Thess. 2:11 The second fatherly quality listed is “encouraging”
 - This is similar to the first - “*to come along side with words*”
 - “*to speak kindly, soothingly*” to comfort or encourage by communication.
 - A father’s words can bring life or death - Prov. 18:21
 - They can infuse courage or be discouraging. Cause to flourish or wither
- “Don’t quit” clip from “Facing the Giants” movie.
 - Notice how the filmmakers show the coach coming along side to infuse courage and notice how the other young men are affected by this motivation.
- A father is to speak into the life of the one he is fathering
 - Proverbs 1-9 is a father /son talk. (if you never got one, or you need one then read Prov. 1-9)
 - Prov. 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1 3:1 4:1-4, 10, 20 5:1,7,20 6:1, 20 7:1, 24
 - Subjects - gangs, discernment, fear of God, bad company, immorality, money, work, marriage, adultery, examples of destroyed lives...
 - Chapter 8 & 9 - voice of Wisdom & Folly. “*Who are you going to heed?*”
 - Good fathers “*come along side*” and speak life into the life of their child.
 - They try to infuse comfort and courage and instruction by their words.
 - Do you chide or come along side with your words?

IMPLORING

- 1 Thess. 2:11 The third trait in this trifacta of words is “imploring”
 - Urging (NIV) Charged (KJV)
 - “*to bear witness – earnestly and repeatedly*” “*To speak well of... or... applaud*”
- A father’s fathering is witnessed by God and others (2:10) and he is to witness as well
 - He notices things about the child, so he corrects and charges and urges.
 - He earnestly and repeatedly speaks well of the child and applauds to motivate the child to move in the right direction (coach)
- 1 Thess. 2:12
 - A good father wants his child to walk worthy
 - We are each called to goodness and godliness and a good & godly father will urge & implore his child to live in a good & godly way.
 - Warren Wiersby – “*Have a good and godly day for of what use is a good day if it is not also a godly day.*”
 - A good father comes along side his child and exhorts, encourages and implores the child to walk worthy.
 - Fathers *walk with* to demonstrate how to *walk worthy*.
 - He uses his close proximity, comforting words and applause to “father”
- While you are imploring remember your failing
 - We have fallen short. Model confessing and repenting in your imploring
- Fathers have an important job. They are to reflect the Heavenly Father. (IOG)
 - We need to repent and strive to good & godly men & fathers - It’s God’s will