

Sermon Notes – June 16, 2024

Fathers and Fatherlessness

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3 Greatest Contributions Fathers Can Give their Children

- 1) Sense of Identity (Acceptance, Belonging, Security)
- 2) Respect for Authority
- 3) Sense of Approval

Fathers – Optional?

- Essential?

Fatherlessness Occurs 2 Ways:

- **Physically** not there
- **Emotionally** absent

How is **God our Father**?

“A **Father to the fatherless**, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”
Psalm 68:5

“You are the helper of the **fatherless**.” Psalm 10:14b

- Ishmael – abandoned by father
- Joseph – disconnected from father
- Moses – unknown father
- David – rejected by father

Turning to the Only Perfect Father to Father You

- 1) Sense of Identity (Acceptance, Belonging, Security)

No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. John 16:27

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your heavenly Father** give good gifts to those who ask him. Matthew 7:11

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from **God our Father**, who created all the lights in the heavens. James 1:17

2) Respect for Authority

“My child,^[b] don't make light of the Lord's discipline,
and don't give up when he corrects you.

⁶For the Lord disciplines those he loves,
and he punishes each one he **accepts as his child**. Hebrews 5b-6

3) Sense of Approval

“So that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and **your Father**, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you .” Matthew 6:18

How does a Church “take up the cause of the fatherless”? Isaiah 1:17b