WHY FATHERS ARE SO IMPORTANT

Malachi 4:5&6(ESV) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of destruction.

The Paraphrase to Zechariah

Luke 1:16&17(ESV) “And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

The Connection between Turning to God and the Hearts of Fathers Being Turned to Their Children

I Timothy 5:8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Statistics

43% of US children live without their father.

63% of youth suicides come from fatherless homes, 5 times the average.

90% of all homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes, 32 times the average.

85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes, 20 times the average.

71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes, 9 times the average.

The Connection between Fatherlessness and Spiritual Growth

Matthew 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,’ ”

Galatians 4:4-6 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, *“Abba,”* Father.”

Most of us were taught to call God “Our Father in Heaven.” Most of us unconsciously assumed that God was like our earthly father, only bigger and stronger and living in Heaven. An abusive father or an uninvolved father or an absent father create a distorted image of “Our Father in Heaven.”

A person who has or had a loving, involved father will find it much easier to want to establish a relationship with God the Father. A person whose father was abusive or uninvolved or absent will find it harder to want to have God as his Heavenly Father. The breakdown of families makes it more difficult to lead people to Christ.

Once a person is saved, their perception of their Heavenly Father will have a major impact on how they grow spiritually. God wants us to live in fellowship with Him so that our joy will be complete (I John 1:1-7). Fellowship with God comes from an open and honest relationship with God where we admit our sins and failures and talk to Him about our emotions and feelings, where we believe that all He is telling us is for our good.

Why the Biblical Family Is So Important

Genesis 1:26&27 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness…So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary says an image is “a visual representation of something.” Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, they were, in a sense, to be like God and represent God.

Colossians 1:16a The Son is the image of the invisible God,

Hebrews 1:3a The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being,

John 14:9c “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

Although there are references to God having attributes that are more typical of mothers, the predominant theme is God is our Heavenly Father.

Isaiah 66:13 “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

Genesis 2:24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and they become one flesh.

Matthew 19:4-6 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together; let no one separate.”

What Our Culture Is Doing

I Thessalonians 4:3-6 It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

I Thessalonians 47&8 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

First came the “normalization” of premarital sex, fornication in the Bible.

Then adultery became viewed as something that was less than serious.

Abortion became the method of dealing with unwanted pregnancies.

Then homosexual behavior went from being a grievous sin to something that should be celebrated.

And now we are being told that a person’s gender is assigned at birth, but very well may be different from whether they are obviously male or female. And those who see themselves as different from their biological sex are being encouraged to “transition” to the opposite sex through hormones and surgery.

Where this leaves us is with a real attack on what God instituted, one man being married to one woman for life and their raising their children together. The number of statistical studies that have shown that growing up with one’s biological parents has enormous benefits to a child seems to make it obvious that what God instituted works best.

But if we celebrate “sexual freedom” and alternative lifestyles and even the blurring of what it means to be male or female, how many children are going to grow up with a strong starting point to relate to “Our Father in Heaven”? And how many of those who come to faith in Christ are never going to really grow in their relationship with God because they cannot get past their childhood image of what a father is?

Things to Remember

A nation whose fathers are not emotionally involved with their children will face devastating judgment.

A person cannot refuse to provide for their children and be right with God.

For a child to grow up with an abusive, uninvolved or absent father has many negative consequences.

Two of the less obvious consequences are that it makes it harder for such a person to come to Christ and also much harder, though definitely not impossible, for a person to grow as a Christian.

Any teaching that tends to produce less stable families raising their biological children is not only harmful in many statistically obvious ways, but is also very harmful spiritually to the children affected by it.