

## **Father's Day**

Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 3:11-12, 4:1-4, 22:6

Luke 6:36, 15:11-32; 1 John 3:1

June 21, 2020

### **What Does it Mean to Be a Real Man?**

#### **Introduction**

God consistently shows His tender love and His gracious discipline for His children throughout the whole Bible.

Likewise, God calls earthly fathers to provide both loving tenderness and balanced discipline in their children's lives.

Tenderness means hugging our children, listening to them, and telling them daily that they are loved. The words of a father are a powerful force in anyone's life, and expressions of love are critical for children to know that they are valued.

Discipline doesn't necessarily mean punishment. In a greater sense, it means dads are guiding, teaching, bringing structure, and challenging their kids to grow into mature, Jesus-loving adults. When dads bring balanced discipline to a child's life, kids learn to be respectful, honoring, and trustworthy in their relationships.

Jesus calls dads to both tenderness and discipline in their children's lives, but these two things are not at odds with one another, and they are not mutually exclusive. Tenderness without discipline can result in kids that are wayward and disrespectful. Likewise, discipline without tenderness can cause kids to wonder about their self-value. When both are present, however, kids grow into confident, thankful adults who know that they are loved and are therefore free to love others with Christ-like love.

***Memory verse: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."—Ephesians 6:4***

Pray and read Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 3:11-12, 4:1-4, 22:6; Luke 6:36, 15:11-32; 1 John 3:1. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

### **What do the passages say?**

1. What emotion did the Psalmist say that the Lord has toward those who fear Him? (Psalm 103:13)
2. Who did Solomon say that the Lord will discipline, and like what relationship is this? (Proverbs 3:11-12)
3. What are two things that Solomon said parents should do for their children? (Proverbs 4:1-4, 22:6)
4. What characteristic did Luke say would make us more like our Heavenly Father? (Luke 6:36)
5. Did the father of the prodigal son respond with anger or tenderness when his son came home? (Luke 15:11-32)
6. How did John say that we have become children of God? (1 John 3:1)

## What do the passages mean?

1. Scripture describes God as a Father who loves us deeply and who wants to be involved in every facet of our lives. Why is it important to us that God describes himself as a tender and loving Father? (Luke 6:36, 1 John 3:1, Matthew 6:8)
  
2. The story of the prodigal son is a parable displaying the fatherly love of God. When the prodigal son came home, the father arguably had the right to respond with anger and rejection, but instead embraced his son and showed him overwhelming love and tenderness. Why would God want a parent to respond to their children in this way? What does it do for a child when their parent responds this way? (Luke 15:11-32, Psalm 103:13)
  
3. Why are a father's words of worth and encouragement so crucial to a child? (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)

4. God shows tenderness to us, but he also disciplines us. What is the purpose of God's discipline of His children and an earthly father's discipline of his children? (Proverbs 4:1-4, Proverbs 22:6, Hebrews 12:5-10)
  
5. God's tenderness and discipline are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, God's love and guidance always coexist and are always active. What would God's love be like if He did not discipline us? Conversely, what would His discipline be like if He did not love us? (Proverbs 3:11-12, Deuteronomy 8:5))

### **Applying the passage**

1. Think of some of the best dads that you have personally known. How did they express their love for their children? (Psalm 103:13, Matthew 7:11, Luke 15:20)

