



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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Sons of Your Father

Joe R. Price

I am reminded on this Father's Day that children resemble their fathers. (There are times when I pass a mirror that I know my father is looking back at me!) In the Bible the expression "son of" conveys the meaning of bearing similar traits (cf. Lk. 10:6; Mk. 3:17). Christians should resemble their heavenly Father.

Children inherit some traits from their fathers without any say in the matter. Children bear the physical marks of their father. Maybe it's a receding hairline, a muscular build, big feet or red hair (you may not have wanted it, but you got it!). But the resemblance Christians should have of their Father is the result of our deliberate choice.

Sometimes children resemble their father because they have been trained to do so. This is where being a godly father is so vitally important. It is generally true that the father's values, attitudes and character are passed on to his children through his words and deeds. Every father should examine his heart and his life to make sure what he is passing on to his children is approved by God (Prov. 3:1-6).

Jesus taught the gospel of the kingdom so that kingdom citizens (Christians) will resemble our heavenly Father. For example, Jesus said, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you...that you may be sons of your Father in heaven...therefore you shall be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:44-48). God the Father teaches us how to love as he loves. It is our duty to learn the lesson and be children of our heavenly Father.

Some traits of the father are passed on because his children imitate him. Whether it is kindness and anger, resentment and love or a host of other things, children imitate what they see in the life of their father. Similarly, Christians are commanded to “be imitators of God as dear children” (Eph. 5:1). In his word our heavenly Father shows us his love, his patience, his longsuffering, his holiness and his punishment of sin (to name only a few of his traits). As children imitate their fathers, we are to carefully mimic our Father in heaven.

We do not become children of God by accident. It is a deliberate choice made through faith in Christ Jesus (Jno. 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26-27). We do not acquire the characteristics of our heavenly Father by accident. We choose to be like our Father by obeying the gospel of his Son.

Our heavenly Father wants us to always be like Him. Fathers, are you comfortable with your children being like you – in everything? If not, then be more like your heavenly Father so that your children can follow your example and be like him, too.

“O Lord, Give Us Fathers”

Joe R. Price

Father’s Day began in America around 1910. Most credit “Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth” for beginning its observance (“Father’s Day,” History.com). Father’s Day was a religious holiday before being commercialized by greeting cards and gifts. It became a national holiday in 1966, and in 1972 the third Sunday of June was officially designated Father’s Day.

The Bible teaches the value of fathers. Far more than mere progenitors, fathers shape future generations and thus, nations and the world (not to mention churches). Their value cannot be overstated. We thank God for the gift of godly fathers and ask Him to continue to bless us with faithful fathers.

O Lord, give us fathers who will listen.

We need fathers who listen first to God and hear from His Scriptures the words of wisdom needed to direct their households in the path of righteousness. We pray for fathers who listen to their children to hear their hopes and dreams and to encourage their aspirations – and for fathers who hear their children’s cries for help in times of doubt and despair. We pray for fathers who listen to their wives, the mothers of their children, and glean from them wise counsel as a trusted companion (Prov 31:10-12).

O Lord, give us fathers who will learn.

How we desperately need fathers who will learn the word of God, live it before their children and also teach it to the next generation (Psa 78:1-8)! We need fathers who are humble and willing to learn; who rely on God’s truth to guide them as they nurture their children in the training and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4). Fathers are needed who will pray with Manoah, “O my Lord, teach us what we shall do for the child” (Judges 13:8).

O Lord, give us fathers who will lead.

We need fathers who willingly accept their role as leaders of their families, accepting the responsibility and the sacrifice that comes with it. These fathers are a blessing to their families (Eph 5:23; 6:4; 1 Tim 3:4).

O Lord, give us fathers who will love.

We plead for fathers who fully love the Lord and who teach their children to love God (cf. Deut 6:4-9). We need fathers who love their children by correcting them in love (Heb 12:5-7). Fathers are needed who love their children’s mother and by that love show their children how to love their future spouses.

Faithful fathers deserve our honor every day: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mothers...that it may be well with you...” (Eph 6:1-2)

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Ray had hip replacement surgery this week
- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Ross, Debbie, and Rachel are in AR visiting Family; will be traveling to Des Moines this week to preach over the weekend
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) continues in Hospice Care
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – David Porter

Lord's Table – Ben Palmer

Wednesday

Song Leader – Chad Mitchell

Invitation – Tom Mitchell

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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