

The Perfect Father

Sunday, June 20, 2020

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

As a father of 4 children of my own and as one who has stood in the role of spiritual father, I know that I am not perfect. I have made mistakes, done things wrong, failed and at times, wished I would have done things differently. Most dads would probably be quick to agree with me that they too are very aware that they are not perfect.

I love my father very much. He passed away almost 4 years ago, but I still love him and miss him and wish he could be here just so I could talk to him and tell him Happy Father's Day. And despite all the things that happened with my family while I was young and growing up, I think I had a great dad. He wasn't perfect but he was a great father

Many of you probably feel the same way about your dad. But for a whole lot of other people, the minute I mentioned father and perfect together your heart probably tensed up because everything in your experience shouts a different story. A story of hurt, pain, abuse, anger, or abandonment. A story that might be filled with questions like, why didn't I have a dad, why didn't my dad love me, or even what if I end up being the same kind of father my dad was, or how can I trust any man, or how can I be expected to forgive what he did?

I'm not here today to excuse or justify what your father did or did not do. I'm not here to parade my dad or any other as the perfect example of what a father should be. I'm not even here today to tell you - you need to forgive your father, though I know that forgiveness is paramount to a healthy Christian life

I am here to simply tell you one thing... that you have a father who is perfect. Please let that thought settle in your heart and mind today. Don't put it through the filter of your own experience. Just receive it, hold on to it, be comforted by it, strengthened by it, encouraged by it, healed by it. You have a perfect father.

Jesus said it in his sermon on the mount. Your father in heaven is perfect.

- **Is always there for you**

One of the key issues that has been discussed again recently in light of the racial unrest in our country is the lack of fathers in the black community. Regardless, though, of the color of your skin the presence of a good Father in our plays a crucial role

Fathers can be absent in many ways. Abandonment is a huge issue for many people. But what I want you to know today is that you have a perfect father who will never abandon you. He isn't an absentee father. He is always there for you

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

5 ...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Isaiah 49:15 (NIV)

15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breasts and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!

- Loves unconditionally

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God's unconditional love is a part of his nature. No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, no matter the decisions you've made. God loves you with an unconditional, everlasting love

Some have even called it reckless.... Corey Asbury

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah*

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Loving unconditionally does not mean that he excuses your sin, nor does it mean that he will preserve you from the consequences of the wrong choices you make

- Pursues a relationship with you passionately

Psalm 23:6 The Message (MSG)

⁶Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

Psalm 139:7-12 The Message (MSG)

⁷⁻¹² Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute—you're already there waiting!

- Delights to talk to you and reveal himself to you

You don't have to worry about God being the type of father who won't talk about himself or what he's been through. He doesn't keep secrets from you

Isaiah 65:1 (NIV)

65 "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'

- Is patient with us

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

- Is proud of us

Mark 1:11 (NIV)

¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

God was proud of his son and since when he sees us he sees Jesus in. Us he is proud of us too

- Will correct and discipline without damaging or destroying

Proverbs 3:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke,
¹² because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

- Is Gentle AND Strong

Isaiah 40:11 (NIV)

11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 42:3 (NIV)

3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

Psalms 18:2 (NIV)

2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

- Defends those he loves

Deuteronomy 20:4 (NIV)

⁴ For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”

Joshua 23:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised.