

Intro.

- A. How does a man learn how to be a good father?
 1. Does it just come naturally?
 2. Most of us learn by observation, but some have either had a poor example, or no example!
- B. Years ago I realized that we can learn more about being a good father by looking at Heavenly Father.
 1. ??-See Him as a tyrant, just waiting for us to make a mistake so He can hurt or destroy us???
 2. ??-See Him as an elderly "Grandfather", who isn't in touch with our lives & needs today???
 3. ??-Do you think of Him as a "Wild Card", which may get us out of anything, regardless of situation???
- C. This A.M. I want us to take a close look at God's role as *the Father of His children* so that we may...
 1. learn to appreciate Our Father's interest in us as His children
 2. & so we can develop the best sort of fathers for our families

Discuss.I. OUR FATHER PLANNED FOR US!

- A. Various passages verify our Father's *long range plans for us* since before the creation of the world.
 1. **Gn. 1:26; 3:15**
 2. **Mt. 25:34** – the kgdm. prepared for us; **Eph. 1:4** – chose us in Him before founda. of world (**Heb 4:3**)
 3. **1 Pet. 1:18-20** Christ died to redeemed us according to plan made before founda. of world was laid.
- B. God's plans for us.....
 1. Are not just adequate, but tremendously abundant beyond measure:
 2. **Jn. 10:10; Rom. 8:15-16**

II. AS OUR FATHER, HE PROVIDES FOR US

- A. God has an absolutely strong desire to provide for our well-being.
 1. Listen to the sentiment (**2 Cor. 6:18**) *And I will be a Father to you, & you will be My sons & daughters*
 2. **1 Thes. 2:11** - ...you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father does his children,
- B. He always sees what we need in advance, and makes provision before the need arises!
 1. He knew man needed to have a job w/ responsibility, **Gen. 2:15; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thes. 3:10**.
 2. He knew we needed a good companion, **Gen. 2:18** *provides not for his own*
 3. He knew we would need direction, **Heb. 12:5** *My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord,*
 4. He knew we would sin, **1 Jn. 2:1** *nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

III. OUR FATHER PROTECTS US.

- A. God possesses wisdom to know what is truly best for us, as well as what will hurt us.
 1. Providentially, He carefully watches over us, **Prov. 3:21-26**
 2. **Psa. 34:15-17**
- B. He has given us all the guidance we need (e.g., Bible) to endure & even profit from pain & suffering.
 1. You & I have to look & search out the way to grow in our trials - **2 Cor. 9-10**.
 2. We must always look for the way of escape when tempted, **1 Cor. 13:10**.

IV. ONLY GOD OUR FATHER CAN PURIFY US.

- A. Thru the blood of our elder brother, our Father makes us clean.
 1. **Rev. 1:5** - *Jesus Christ, who...loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*
 2. **Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9.** (see **2 Cor. 6:17-7:1**)
 3. It is needed & natural for children of God to want to be clean before a Father who is absolutely pure ↗
- B. As a Father, God knows the importance discipline can make in His children's lives.
 1. **Heb. 12:5-11**
 2. Little girl sent into backyard to get a switch off peach tree. (Gone 10 minutes.) Couldn't reach--ROCK.
 3. **Prov. 13:24** *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

V. OUR FATHER TAKES PRIDE IN US!

A. God looks at us thru rose colored glasses – *stained with blood of Jesus.*

1. Look in **Tit. 3:2-5, Eph. 2:1-10; Rom. 5:1-2**
2. **Tit. 2:11-14**

B. By ourselves, & before association w/ God & His word, we were a sorry sort! (c. **Tit. 3:3**)

1. **Eph. 2:21** (c. **Hab. 1:13** – God is *of purer eyes than to behold evil, and can not look on iniquity:*)
2. **Rom. 5:8** – *while we were still in sin, Christ died for us* – because God could see what we would look like if we were pure, never having sinned!
3. **1 Tm. 2:4** – God would have all men to be saved; & as many imperfect sinners as will obey the Father's will, God will receive pure & clean in His sight, (**Rev. 7:13-14**)

Concl.

A. Paul reminds us of our rights as God's adopted children:

1. **Gal. 4:4-7**
2. Jesus made it abundantly clear that as children of the Heavenly Father, we must always do His will, **Mt. 7:21**

B. Parents know when children really love & respect them, they will obey them. God knows this, too.

1. **Jn. 14:15** – *If you love me, keep my commandments.* Hear God's commands:
 - a. **Jn. 3:16-18** God sent His Son so that we might have opportunity to BELIEVE on Christ & be saved
 - b. **Acts 11:18** - *God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*
 - c. **Mt. 17:5** (**Mt. 16:16-17**) **Mt. 10:32** = the "good confession"
 - d. **Acts 2:38** *repent & be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for - remission of sins*
 - e. Continue faithfully doing the Father's will & work (**Jn. 9:4 & 1 Cor. 15:58**)
2. **Rom. 2:6-8** *Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,*