

A Real Father

In his book, "*Dare to Discipline*,"

James Dobson suggests 3 specific things for a father to keep in mind.

1. Children oftentimes follow in the footsteps of their father.
2. The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
3. A Christian father will arrange to spend time with his children.

To be successful we need a model, that we can pattern ourselves after.

Is there such a thing as a perfect father? Yes, there is!

Let's see what we can learn about being a father by looking at the perfect Father.

I. GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN 1 John 4:19; Romans 5:8

God did not wait for us to meet His expectations.

He simply loved us & He loved us first.

God's love for us is complete, constant, & unconditional. **Romans 8:38, 39**

II. GOD ENCOURAGES HIS CHILDREN

God encouraged Moses at the burning bush.

He encouraged Joshua as Joshua set out to conquer the Promised Land.

He not only encouraged them with His words,

but with His presence, & with His assistance. **Joshua 1:9**

III. GOD DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN

God is a loving father. He is a perfect father.

His intentions & actions are never evil or unloving.

Yet He disciplines His children.

He disciplines because of His goodness and His love.

Deuteronomy 8:5; Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:10, 11

The man who disciplines his children wisely is reflecting the character of God.

IV. A FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

In the light of God's love, encouragement & discipline, we fathers must realize it is our responsibility to bring our children up in the training & instruction of the Lord.

Psalm 78:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

We are to pass on the rich heritage of the faith of our fathers to our children & to their children's children from one generation to another.

We must do it the right way- God's way!