



## ***“Faith of a Father”***

Characteristics of Great Dads

Psalms 128:1-6

**Paul Harvey's definition of a father...**

**"A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic.... A father never feels worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks, never quite the man his son believes him to be, and this worries him, sometimes. So he works too hard to try and smooth out the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him....Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough, so they can have grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. " --Paul Harvey**

**Men are so different!**

**One night a wife found her husband standing over their baby's crib. Silently she watched him. As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, delight, amazement, enchantment, skepticism. Touched by this unusual display and the deep emotions it aroused, with eyes glistening she slipped her arm around her husband. "A penny for your thoughts," she said. "It's amazing!" her replied. "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only \$46.50."**

**Sentence Sermon: (SLIDE)**

***“Great Fathers make it their life’s work to learn how to love.”***

*A great dad is one that :*

**I. Learns** – “that fears the Lord” (v. 1)

*His character is one that is built on :*

**A. Respect** – “fears the Lord “

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, fools despise learning*

**B. Repetition** – “ walks “

- "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." -- Clarence Budington Kelland

**C. Restraint** – “walks in His ways”

- "An angry father is most cruel towards himself." -- Publilius Syrus

**II. Labors** - “labour of thine hands” (v. 2)

*His compensation is one that brings :*

**A. Honor** – “shall eat”

- "Small boy's definition of Father's Day: It's just like Mother's Day only you don't spend so much." -- Unknown

**B. Happiness** – “happy shalt thou be”

- "A father is a guy who has snapshots in his wallet where his money used to be." – Unknown

**C. Health** – “it shall be well with thee”

- **"A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty." -- Unknown**

**III. Loves** –“thy wife...children...children’s children” (v. 3)

*His community is one that benefits from :*

**A. Care** – “fruitful vine”

**B. Consistency** – “by the sides of thine house”

**C. Connection** – “olive plants round ..thy table”

- “It is a wise father that knows his child.”  
William Shakespeare

**“Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.”  
- Proverbs 17:7**

According to David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values in New York City and co-founder of the National Fatherhood Initiative: \*Forty percent of American children currently don't live with their biological fathers. \*Seventy percent of juveniles in state reform institutions grew up with one or neither parents. \*Forty-three percent of adult inmates grew up in single-parent homes, mostly without dads. \*Thirty

percent of children living with never-married mothers twenty-two percent with divorced mothers repeat a grade, compared with 12 percent of those living with both biological parents. --"

### **Verses on Fathers**

- Deuteronomy 6:5-7
- Proverbs 22:6
- Proverbs 22:15
- Ephesians 6:4
- I Timothy 5:8
- Hebrews 12:7-11
- Colossians 3:21
- Philippians 2:5-8