

There is no perfect father except our Father who art in heaven – Our perfect Father has a perfect Son

“He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...” – Hebrews 1:2-3 - If you want to know **who God is, look at Jesus**

God was a wonderful Father to Adam... Put him in the Garden of Eden, created Eve, gave Him direction, vocation and fellowship

Despite God’s goodness, Adam sinned passing a sinful legacy to all of humanity – **“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** – Rom. 3:23

Sin makes us want to hide, cover ourselves and blame shift. ...sin separates us from God and it’s price is death – Romans 6:23

Adam was removed from the Garden – Now all of Adam’s children (humanity) **are born into sin and its consequences**

Cain (Adam’s first son) was warned that “sin is crouching at the door” – A **jealous Cain murdered** his brother Abel and “**plea bargains**” with God

Humanity goes **from a perfect man to a sinful man to a dysfunctional family**...murder, shame, guilt, blame shift and estrangement from God

Genesis 6...there was so much violence in the earth that the Lord **regretted having made man**...with the **exception of Noah**

Noah was a **father** to three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth - - Noah and his family survive the flood, and repopulates the earth

By the 11th chapter of Genesis, **man seeks to organize himself apart from God. ...to make a name for “themselves”...the first secularists**

God isn’t Secular – He’s Relational

Secularism is defined as the doctrine **that morality should be based solely in regard to the well-being of mankind in this present life**

Secularism is one of the prominent philosophies of present day culture...excludes considerations of belief in God and allegiance to Him

In the 12th chapter of Genesis **God picks a man** from Ur whose name was **Abram**, which means “**exalted father**” and spoke to him

“...and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” – Genesis 12:1-3

Islam, Orthodox Judaism and Christianity, all claim Abraham as their father...**this one man who did indeed become father of nations**

He had **no church**, “**not on T.V.**”, **wrote no books**, **no accountability group**, **no Bible**, and **may have been illiterate**...**yet he was God’s choice**

God chooses a man **who wasn’t a father to be a father** and changes his name to Abraham, “**a father of a multitude of nations**”

Abraham believed God and it was **reckoned** to him as **righteousness** – **If** we have the faith of Abraham, we are Abraham’s children – Romans 4

The question is not, “**Do we believe in God?**” Rather, “**DO WE BELIEVE GOD?**” Abraham **believed God**, not just “**in God**”

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – It was God’s plan to influence the earth for goodness and create a nation of priests **through fathers and families**

Abraham’s legacy still speaks some 4,000 years later – He gave His children the **needed elements** to fulfill God’s purpose

Fathers are to be righteous leaders of their family – God still influencing the world through fathers who are in right relationship with Christ

Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant in **His blood** and has provided a way for sinful man to be restored to **our heavenly Father** – Heb. 9:15

Seven Points of Fatherhood

First, Abraham was a man of **faith**, of **prayer**, of **courage**, of **principle** – He was a **father**, but most importantly **A MAN OF GOD FIRST**

Secondly, we are to **father their hearts** as well as **their actions** - **maturity of children** primarily takes place **in the context of family** –

A negative chain reaction occurs because of renegade fathers...a broken chain and generational dysfunction affects all of society

Abraham left a Godly legacy...Isaac, Jacob and his descendants... built into them truth that lived beyond his own generation

Thirdly, **We can only do the best we can** – Sons and daughters are **ultimately responsible for their own choices and will stand accountable**

Fourthly, **be a good example** – Deut. 6, **three generations of testimony**...**son, father and grandfather**...Give them an example worth emulating

If church is not vital to Dad, then **why should it be vital to children?** – If growth in God is not important to Dad, **why should it be to them?**

Fifthly, be a “**velvet covered brick**” – Don’t abdicate spiritual responsibility and family leadership – Serve and discipline out of love

We cannot change our ancestors but we can do something about our descendants - **Don’t compromise on issues of character**

Sixthly, **teach them to honor** – Honor your **father and mother**, **grandparents**, **elders**, **disadvantaged**, **all men**, **honor God and His Word**

Seventh, **don’t limit God** – If you had no dad or were abused or abandoned, then **be the first generation of Godly legacy**

Being a father is a sacred trust – Being a good father is key to influencing the world for goodness and righteousness through Jesus Christ

If you are not a father, BE FATHERLY...let God expand your borders! **May the Abrahamic blessing come upon you - Happy Father’s Day!**