

# Teaching on Fatherhood

Father's Day 2020

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## Key Truth:

God calls Fathers to imitate Christ in the care and raising of their children.

Since Jesus Christ is the preeminent over all things, it stands to reason that he is in charge of fathers. In this passage, Paul instructs Christian fathers about the limits and liabilities of their actions in the home. He also reminds them that they are serving Jesus Christ and can expect rewards for their faithful service (see Colossians 3:23).

## DISCUSS

Read **Colossians 3:18-25**, paying particular attention to verse 21. Discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in Paul's important "**Teaching on Fatherhood.**"

## DIG IN

### 1. The Special Responsibilities of Fatherhood.

Christian Fathers have a special role in the physical, spiritual, and emotional life of their children. Which of these do you find the most challenging to you?

**Read Ephesians 6:4:** Describe what it might mean to raise your children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

### 2. The Limits and Liabilities of Fatherhood.

To provoke means to "stir up" or to embitter or exasperate. In what ways can father's today provoke their children?

In what ways was this limitation on fathers so countercultural for the first-century Roman world (see *Patria Potestas*)? In what ways is this limitation countercultural today?

Paul states that fathers should not provoke their children "lest they become discouraged." In what ways is that damaging to children?

Does this mean that fathers should not discipline or correct their children? Why or why not?

How can father's balance this prohibition with proper discipline?

### 3. The Gospel Demonstration of Fatherhood.

**Read 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12:** In what ways does Paul demonstrate the gospel in the way he treats the Thessalonians? How can Christian fathers demonstrate the gospel in the ways they treat their own children?

## DO

Every Christian man has a heavenly Father who loves and cares for him. Describe for the group a time when your heavenly Father especially loved and cared for you in a unique way.