

The Father We All Need

Matthew 3:13-17

- **Charles Spurgeon**, 19th Century British Preacher and Theologian
"Train up a child in the way he should go—but be sure you go that way yourself."
- **Dwight L. Moody**, 19th Century American Evangelist "A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian ... and most of all, his family ought to know
- **Billy Graham**, Christian Evangelist and Author
"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."
- **Clarence Budington Kelland**, U.S. Writer
"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*"

I. Acknowledgment & Affirmation

A. To a child the acknowledgment of a parent is supreme.

B. Kids will look in the stands of a ballgame just to see how their parents acknowledge them.

C. Kids need to be affirmed that you are proud to be their parent and glad they are your child.

D. Do you acknowledge and affirm your children?

E. Notice how the Father identifies that not only this is “the Son” but that this is “MY SON.”

F. The Father is possessive about His ownership of the Son.

Luke 12:8-9

⁸“I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. ⁹ But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels.

Proverbs 3:1-4

My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
² for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity.

³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.

James B. Torrance, Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace

“It seems to me that in a pastoral situation our first risk is to throw people back on themselves with exhortations and instructions as to what to do, and how to do it... [Actually we are] to direct people to the Gospel of Grace—to Jesus Christ, that they might look to Him to lead them, open their hearts in faith and in prayer, and to draw them by the Spirit into His eternal life of communion with the Father”

II. Affection

A. The Father told the Son He loves Him.

B. When is the last time you told your children you love them.

C. It is amazing how men can ride broncs, slam steel, farm fields, but are scared to say how they feel about those they are supposed to love the most.

D. God, the Father, is the prime and perfect example of not being afraid to be affectionate.

E. Affection does not make you less of a man, it makes you more of one.

C.S. Lewis

“Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives.

John 14:21

²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

III. Approval

A. Every child looks to have the approval of their parents.

B. Many children look to unhealthy parents for approval which leads to their unhealthiness.

C. Notice the approval the Father gave was not in what Jesus had done because at this point Jesus was on the beginning end of His ministry, but rather for who He is.

D. Do you give your kids approval or only show them their faults?

E. Are you looking for the Father’s approval in discovering who you are?

James Dobson

My legacy doesn't matter. It isn't important that I be remembered. It's important that when I stand before the Lord, he says, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' I want to finish strong.

Matthew 25:21

²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

CONCLUSION

Psalm 103:13 (NLT)

"The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him." –