

CONCEPTS OF GOD ARE FIRST LEARNED FROM DAD

Proverbs 22:6 Ephesians 6:4 Colossians 3:21

Introduction: Ever hear someone remark that they can't accept God as a "Father" because their own father deserted them, mistreated them, etc? How you view God is influenced greatly in how you view your own earthly dad/father. It seems that today nobody in the home wants the responsibility of teaching the children about God, even though God has put that responsibility upon the father. It is no secret that many of our concepts and outlooks on life have been formed in our childhood years while we were with our parents. Looking at our concepts of God formed by how our earthly father influenced us then:

I. TO SOME, GOD IS LOVING BECAUSE DAD WAS LOVING

- It is a love that just loves and doesn't ask to be loved back.
- *"...whosoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love.."*
- One's concept of a loving God is understood better when one has had a loving dad/father.

II. TO SOME, GOD IS TRULY HOLY, IF DAD THOUGHT GOD WAS HOLY

- Respect, admiration and appreciation of God comes if dad respected, admired and appreciated God.
- How many have had fathers/dads who used God's name in profanity and were raised in an un-Godly atmosphere?
- A father who lives a life, recognizing the Holiness of God will instill in his children the attitude that God is different and we must recognize and honor that.

III. TO SOME, GOD IS A GIVING GOD IF DAD WAS GIVING

- A father who gives freely to his children out of love will create the attitude of giving because of "want to."
- Giving for any other reason is not the kind of "giving" God gives and will not teach God's kind of giving.
- God's giving is done without our having to ask and He asks nothing in return because He gives freely to all because He loves all equally.

IV. TO SOME, GOD IS GENTLE, IF DAD WAS GENTLE

- God never "yells" at us or is short tempered but is patient and caring and loving.
- *"...be ye kind and compassionate to one another, live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble..."*
- A father/dad who is gentle and caring for his children will create an understanding in them of God's gentleness.

V. TO SOME, GOD'S WORD IS TO BE USED FOR INSTRUCTION, IF DAD USED IT

- How often does a child see his/her father/dad studying God's Word and then refer to it?
- Do family guidelines (if any) come from God's Word?
- God's Word will be accepted as the ultimate, supreme, final "say" in all things IF dad taught so.

VI. TO SOME, GOD IS WORTHY OF SERVING AND OBEYING, IF DAD SERVED AND OBEYED GOD

- Parents are always telling children to "do it because I said so..."
- One's attitude toward serving and obeying comes from what was learned at home.
- A dad who serves and obeys God and teaches his family to do so also, will contribute to his children's willingness and readiness to serve and obey God.

VII. TO SOME, GOD IS PATIENT, IF DAD WAS PATIENT

- God's love surrounds us and He is patient and longsuffering.
- The best place to learn about God is in the home with the father teaching and showing by example.
- An impulsive, hostile, moody dad/father will confuse and give a distorted image and that image will be transferred to one's concept of God.
- Understanding God's infinite patience is almost impossible to most people because of what was learned at home.

VIII. TO SOME, GOD CAN BE TRUSTED, IF DAD COULD BE TRUSTED

- Broken promises within a family generates distrust that will be carried throughout life in one's attitude and outlook on life.
- Trusting, believing simply because someone says this or that is difficult to do for most people to do because of the countless times people fail to keep their word.
- If dad's word was "law" and he always kept his word, then one's concept of trusting God, regardless, will be easier.
- How many of us have trouble standing on what God has said and nothing else?

CONCLUSION:

1. No dad has ever reached perfection in his family relationships and whatever experiences his children have had in growing up in the home will be carried over into their adult life, whether good or bad.
2. The home is the place where God and the things of God need to be taught and the dad of that home is the one God holds responsible.
3. Take a good look around, do you see a home as being the place where the family is learning about God with the dad doing the leading?
4. For a home to be the place where God is learned about, then the dad of that home needs to know about God himself.
5. Dad's, Fathers, God holds you responsible for your family knowing about Him. How well are you doing in that responsibility?