

Fathers Who Give Hope

The verse divides into 3 simple parts

- *Fathers*.....who Paul is addressing
- *Do not provoke* ...the command to fathers
- *Lest they become discouraged* ...the purpose of the command

Fathers Who Give Hope

The Fatherhood of God

Jesus taught that God is the Father of those who love His Son

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.*

The Apostle Paul taught that those who have God as their Father also have the Spirit of God's Son living in them

Romans 8:14-16 *because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

Those who love Jesus and have the life changing Spirit of Christ living in them are those who rightly call God their Father



Fathers Who Give Hope

Why bring up the Fatherhood of God?

1. All human fathering is to be patterned after God's Fatherhood
...how God the Father relates to those who love His Son
2. So this message has relevance to everyone

You can receive this message as...

- A straightforward exhortation to fathers
- A parable pointing to the way the Father in heaven loves those who believe and follow His Son

Fathers Who Give Hope

“Lest they become discouraged”

The goal of fathering is to raise children who are not discouraged

Instead pursue a fatherhood that gives...

Hope

Happiness

Confidence & Courage

No parent actually believes that the aim of parenthood is to discourage children...

...So what makes Paul’s teaching distinctive from a parenting best-seller?



Fathers Who Give Hope

“Lest they become discouraged”

- Fathering that gives hope in God instead of discouragement
- Fathering that gives happiness in God instead of discouragement

Psalm 4:7 – 8 You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

- Fathering that gives confidence & courage in God instead of discouragement

Psalm 78:5-7 Which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, *even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God*

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With all our emphasis on self-confidence

- Most people don't succeed at it
- And the nature of success isn't what it's cracked up to be

“Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled...and More Miserable than Ever”



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Eg. How the Heavenly Father worked to root out Paul's self-confidence

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves *so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;*



Fathers Who Give Hope

“Lest they become discouraged”

A father following God’s pattern of Fatherhood will ask...

- How can I be used of God to help my children hope in God, be happy in God, and be confident & courageous in God attempting great things to the glory of God?
- How can I banish self-confidence from the heart of my child and fill them with confidence, courage, zeal and boldness that are rooted in the grace and power of Christ and not in themselves

Fathers Who Give Hope

Do not provoke your children

What do fathers do that provoke their children to long-term discouragement?

Or...How do fathers motivate their children to long-term hope, happiness and confidence in God?

Growing as men who are happy and hopeful in God

Fathers, what you **ARE** in relation to God is far more important than any particular parenting technique

Fathers Who Give Hope

Fathers

Before God, fathers bear a special responsibility to motivate their children to hope and happiness and confidence in God that leads to a courageous life of living for the glory of God

Do NOT be discouraged...

- The gospel is not just follow the Bible's example
- The gospel IS repent and trust in Christ who redeems fathers and families