

Who Needs a Dad?

Text: Eph. 6:1-4

Joyce and I watched Steve Young's retirement ceremony. He promised to bring the same dedication to his role of being a husband and father that he did to being a Super Bowl winner. One of his retirement regrets is that he would like for his children to see him play. 49er coach Steve Mariuchi responded to that wish by saying, "I promise you, believe me, you are going to enjoy watching your kids play and that is far more important."

It's great to see people in tune with the words we find in the Eph. 6:2 "**honor your father.**" This is one of the Ten Commandments (not suggestions, comes after the big four (the ones all about God (His supremacy, His name and His day)

Fatherhood is under assault in today's society. Gloria Steinem says, "**woman needs a husband like a fish needs a bicycle.**" We have been conditioned to lower the role of father. This famous saying was directed to mothers. **The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.** One of the most celebrated evangelist named Billy Sunday, who's preaching stirred multitudes in the first half of the 1900's said, "**Give a child a good mother and any old stick will do for a dad.**" It has shown up in such arenas as TV. A Father Knows Best, Leave It to Beaver, Ozzie and Harriet

Andy Griffith portrayal of a widowed father. These fathers were portrayed as wise, firm, generous, and a moral compass. Now we are more apt to see fathers portrayed as Al Bundy married with children or the hapless Homer Simpson. But the commandment reminds us that the Heavenly Father wants us to honor (give weight) to the role of earthly fathers. He wants us to be able to answer the question, Who needs a dad?

Let me suggest that:

1. OUR COUNTRY NEEDS DADS.

More children will go to bed tonight in fatherless homes than ever in our country's history. Talk to Experts in crime, drug abuse, depression, school failure, and they will point to some study that points back to the disappearance of fathers from the American family. **The percentage of US children living apart from their biological fathers in 1960 was 17%. In 1990 that percentage had more than doubled to 36%** Mother Teresa was asked, upon receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, **What can we do to promote world Peace?** Her answer: **If you want to promote World peace, go home and love your family.** Good words from a wise lady.

2. MOMS NEED DADS.

The challenge of raising children requires two parents. Even though Mary was a special woman and would bring forth a divine son generated by the Holy Spirit, the angel told Joseph, Marry Mary! It was Joseph that provided and protected this holy family. The majority of single moms live below the poverty level. Moms have spiritual and emotional needs that can be filled by a loving devoted husband.

3. CHILDREN NEED A DAD.

Today Tiger Woods may grab the attention, but the rest of the story comes from a father who started with a little boy to teach him to become a golfer. A girl who has had a strong father with a tender heart will give that daughter a better sense of who she is as a woman, and what to look for in a man than a fatherless daughter. Listen to some letters I collected from a third grade class in San Francisco.

4. GOD NEEDS DADS.

See Ephesians 6:4 Dads are God's stewards. They have received Gifts to care for and to cherish. Blankenhorn asserts that being a loving father and a good husband is the best part of being a man. God knows that Christian fathers will lead the children to God. Abraham, The Phillipine Jailer.

CONCLUSION: I know that we fathers are not perfect. I know there are fathers that have failed to live up to the expectations that we have for them.

But we can make them fill needed. We can pray for them. We can commit ourselves to wear the title "Father" with class.