

Fatherhood Matters

What Really Matters #4 – Pastor Jonathan Combs – June 21, 2020 – 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

Philippians 1:10 (NLT) For I want you to understand **what really matters**, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

1 Thessalonians 2:8-12 (ESV) ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹ For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Why Christ-like Fatherhood Matters?

1. Because Christ-like fathers share their lives with their children.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT) We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NIV) As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Malachi 4:6 (ESV) He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers ...

2. Because Christ-like fathers work to provide for their children.

1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV) But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (ESV) If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

Genesis 2:15 (ESV) The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 3:17-19 (GW) "Through hard work you will eat ... by the sweat of your brow, you will produce food to eat until you return to the ground"

3. Because Christ-like fathers display Godly conduct for their children.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 (ESV) ... I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Philippians 4:9 (ESV) What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (ESV) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

4. Because Christ-like fathers inspire Godly living in their children.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NLT) We urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

Colossians 3:21 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Proverbs 3:12 (NLT) For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.