

Fathering Like Our Father

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I. Introduction

II. How Our Heavenly Father Fathers Us (Romans 8:28-39).

A. God wants us to know that we belong to His family (Romans 8:28-29).

John 14:9-10 (NIV) ⁹Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."

1. It's important to give our children (both physical and spiritual) a good model to follow.
2. We need to take responsibility for raising up our kids.
3. Our children need to know they belong to a family.

B. Our Heavenly Father believes in us (Romans 8:30-34).

1. We need to be our children's biggest fans!
 - a. Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

C. Nothing can separate us from our Heavenly Father's love (Romans 8:35-39).

1. We need to constantly remind our children that nothing can separate them from our love.
 - a. Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

III. Conclusion

A. Romans 8:19-21 (NIV) ¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

- B. Malachi 4:5-6 (NIV) ⁵“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”