

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Power of Fathers

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Genesis

Theme: Embrace father rule, as our Father rules for the good of all his subjects.

Introduction: Father's Day is a good day to recognize the good that men bring into the world. The Lord has designed masculinity, and patriarchy, to be a powerful, positive force in his creation. When patriarchy goes bad, it can bring potent harm; but as we turn to the Lord, he redeems and restores even those challenging situations. It is important that we understand and affirm what Scripture teaches us.

We can consider the good of patriarchy under 2 heads:

1. The good design of father rule

From its earliest pages, the Bible teaches father rule (patriarchy). It is his good design from the world. Adam was called to work and keep the garden.

In particular, we find these 5 principles: a) father rule begins at Gen 1:1, when our Heavenly Father creates and rules over his creation; b) man was created to be the human agent of the divine rule; c) authoritative leadership is distinctly masculine in God's world; d) patriarchy was established so that creation would flourish; e) patriarchy was established so that creation would be protected.

The aggressiveness and willingness of men to be disagreeable is part of God's good design in resisting evil. Fighting evil is a common task of those who lead in this fallen world (e.g., Exod 32:27-29; Num 25:7-8; 1 Sam 15:33; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor 5:13; Matt 23; Rev 19:11-21; Acts 13:9-11; etc.).

2. The redemption of father failure

Scripture contains many examples of father failure, and history is filled as well.

Sadly, when patriarchy goes bad, the effects can be very destructive.

Thankfully, Scripture shows us how the Lord works redemptively to overcome the effects of the fall and to make godly men who love and serve him.

Abraham is a profound example of that in Gen 22. His faith and obedience when commanded to sacrifice Isaac points us to God's grace.

Three principles in particular can be found: a) patriarchy always involves sacrifice; b) patriarchy is fundamentally godward; and c) patriarchy is learned behavior.

Men grow in godliness by stepping into responsibility. As we cry out to the Lord he forgives our failures and transforms us for greater fidelity and obedience.

We also need to honor older, faithful men as spiritual fathers whose proven character and fruitful households testify to their maturity and strength.

Questions:

1. Do you know God? Do you love him? (Mark 12:28-31)
2. Do you understand and appreciate biblical patriarchy? What does the word evoke for you?
3. How do you need the Lord's grace in your own life with regard to patriarchy?