

A FATHER'S DUTIES TOWARD HIS CHILDREN
(GOD'S ROLE IN RELATION TO HIS CHILDREN)
Romans 8:14, 15, 16, 17 (God's own)

I. INTRODUCTION

Let us approach this subject from two directions: the natural (earthly) and the spiritual (divine nature from heaven). The first man was of the earth, made of dust (*Gen. 2:7*), the second man, the Lord, (*Jn. 3:13*), from heaven (*1 Cor. 15: 47, 48, 49*).

II. DEFINITION

- a. Father (natural, earthly) – Male parent or male ancestor; Father-in-law – Father of one's husband or wife; Father's Day – Day in which the fathers are honored by the family; 3rd Sunday in June; a mentor or provider
- b. ABBA (Aramic) (Gk. Patēr), an emphatic (a forcible stressed form of AB, another name for Father mentioned three times in the New Testament always in the context of prayer in *Mk 14:36, Gal. 4:6* Jesus uses this everyday language of the family. (See father honored) AB. God the Father: it is through Jesus that the fatherhood of God comes fully in the light; he frequently calls God "My Father" *Matt. 7:21* and to His disciples says "your Father" (*Matt.6:6*), (*Mk. 1:25*) (*John 20:17*); Paul uses the same word to suggest the warmth and confidence with which believers may address God as Father (*Rom 8:15*) (*Gal. 4:5,6*)

III. SUBJECT

- a. A father's duties (what one ought to do! A moral legal obligation) toward his children.
 - i. **Instruct** - (*Prov. 1:8*) teach, inform give direction; our actions (*Jos. 1:21*) be doers of the word not hearers only speaks louder than our words. This is especially true in the home. Children learn values, morals and priorities by observing how their parents act and react everyday. If parents exhibit a deep reverence (to hold in great regard and respect) for and dependence on God, the children will catch these attitudes. Let them see your reverence for God. Teach them right living by

giving worship an important place in your family life by reading the Bible together.

- ii. **Train** – cause to grow in a particular way; educate, instruct, exercise (*Prov. 22:6*). In the way “he should go” is literally, “according our children a like or train them the same way; but we as fathers (parents) should discern (understand) the individuality and special strengths that God has given each one (child). Many parent want to make all the choices for their child, but this hurts him or her in the long run, when parent teach a child how to make decisions they don’t have to watch every step he or she takes. They know their children will remain on the right path “track” because they have made the choice themselves. Train your children to choose the right way. Also see *Eph 6:5*; *2 Tim. 3:14, 15*.
- iii. **Chasten** – (KJV Heb. 12:5-1) Gk. Paideia) primarily denotes “to train children,” suggest the broad (discipline life application study bible) idea of education (Praise a child) to correct with word’s reproving and admonishing; Webster: “to inflict punishment on”, reduce to order; who loves his child more – the father who allows (*see Matt. 7: 8-11*) the child to do what will harm him or the one who corrects, trans and even punishes the child to help him learn what is right? It is never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined by God, but his training that produces orderliness, obedience and self-control discipline is a sign of his deep love for us. When God corrects you, see it as a proof of His love and ask Him what he is trying to teach you.
- iv. We may **respond** to training that produces (orderliness and self-control) discipline in several ways. 1) We can except it with resignation (to be content to endure; 2) we can accept it with self pity, thinking we really didn’t deserve it; 3) we can be angry (impatient) and resentful toward God or; 4) we can accept it gratefully (be thankful for something received) as the appropriate response we owe a loving father.
- v. **Love** – strong affection desire or devotion, security (*Gen. 37:2,3,4*) The story of Jacob and one of his sons, Joseph, where the Robe became a symbol of Jacob’s favoritism toward Joseph at 17 years old, and it aggravated the already strained relations between Joseph and his brothers. Favoritism in families may be unavoidable, but its divisive effects should be minimized. Parents may not be able to change their feelings toward a favorite child, but they can change their actions toward others.

(*Mk. 10:14*) Jesus blesses little children; adults are not as trusting as little children. To feel secure all children need a loving look and a gentle touch from someone who cares. Complete intellectual understanding is not one of the (a child's) requirements. They believe us if they trust us. Jesus said that people should believe in Him with this kind of childlike faith. We should not have to understand all the mysteries of the universe; it should be enough to know that God loves us and provides forgiveness for our sin. This does not mean that we should be childish or immature, but we should trust God with a child's simplicity and receptivity.

- vi. *1 Peter 2:2* "As newborn babes desire the pure milk of the Word, that they, we, you may grow thereby (adds up to salvation). One characteristic all children share is that they want to grow up to be like big brother or sister or like their parents. When we are born again we become spiritual newborn babies, if we are healthy we will yearn to grow. Therefore we cry "Abba Father."