

The Need for God “The Father”

“Understanding the Father’s Importance
in Emotional & Spiritual Health”

DemEANing & Absence of Men

Hebrews 12:8-11 (NIV)

If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. [9] Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! [10] Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Developmental Shaping

James 1:16-18 (NIV)

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. [17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. [18] He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

A Distorted View of Authority

1 John 3:1-2 (NIV)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 Tim. 2:11-14 (NIV) (Not Complimentarity/Reversal of Roles)

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. [12] I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. [13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve. [14] And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

The Destruction of Fatherhood

- **40% of mothers reported that they had interfered with the fathers visitation to punish their ex-spouse.**

["Frequency of Visitation" by Sanford Braver, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry]

- **50% of mothers see no value in the fathers continued contact with his children.**

["Surviving the Breakup" by Joan Berlin Kelly]

- **Statistics are from Fathers for Life.**

<http://www.fathersforlife.org/divorce/chldrndiv.htm>

The Destruction of Fatherhood

- **63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.**
[U. S. D.H.H.S. Bureau of the Census]
- **90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.**
- **85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes.**
[Center for Disease Control]
- **80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes.**
[*Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 14 p. 403-26]

The Destruction of Fatherhood

- **71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.**

National Principals Association *Report on the State of High Schools*]

- **70% of juveniles in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes**

[U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept., 1988]

- **85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home.**

[Fulton County Georgia Jail Populations and Texas Dept. of Corrections, 1992]

Consequences of Father Absence

For the best part of thirty years we have been conducting a vast experiment with the family, and now the results are in: the decline of the two-parent, married-couple family has resulted in poverty, ill-health, educational failure, unhappiness, anti-social behaviour, isolation and social exclusion for thousands of women, men and children.

Fathers for Life: Ibid.

See also: Wallerstein, J., Lewis, J., Blakeslee, S. (2000). *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce*, (New York: Hyperion).

Order Flowing from Fatherhood

John 8:28-30 (NIV)

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. [29] The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." [30] Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.

A Legitimate Heir

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32] Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Our Need/His Provision

John 8:25-27 (KJV)

Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning. [26] I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. [27] They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.