

Fatherhood



Macnamara

“Men are predominantly portrayed in media as villains, aggressors, perverts and philanderers. More than 75 per cent of all mass media representations of men and male identity categorized into profiles portrayed men in one of these four ways. In total, more than 80 per cent of media profiles of men were negative, compared with 18.4 per cent which showed positive profiles or themes...There is little equivocation in relation to men in the media; they are predominantly evil. Men are mostly reported in mass media news, current affairs, talk shows and lifestyle media in relation to violence and aggression.”

(Macnamara, Jim. 2006. *Media and Male Identity: The Making and Remaking of Men*. Basingstoke [England]: Palgrave Macmillan, 99)



“married men with children who are affiliated with conservative Protestant churches are in some ways traditional family patriarchs. They do a smaller share of the household labor than most husbands, they are more likely than other fathers to use corporal punishment, and they affirm the importance of male headship in the family more than anyone else. But theirs is a very soft patriarchy. These family men are consistently the most active and emotionally engaged group of fathers and the most emotionally engaged group of husbands in this study.”

(Wilcox, *Soft Patriarchs, New Men*, 191)



“that men who attend religious services several times a week are 72% less likely to abuse their female partners than men from comparable backgrounds who do not attend services.”

(Ellison, C. G., Trinitapoli, J. A., Anderson, K. L., & Johnson, B. R. (2007). 'Race/Ethnicity, Religious Involvement, and Domestic Violence.' *Violence Against Women*, 13(11), <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801207308259>, 1105)



Psalms 103:13 (ESV) — ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Hebrews 12:9 (ESV) — ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?



Biblical commands to Fathers

OT – Proverbs 13:24, 19:18, 22:6

NT – Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) — ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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



Exodus 38:22–23 (ESV) — ²² Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses; ²³ and with him was Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer and embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen.



Genesis 48:6 (ESV) — ⁶ And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

Numbers 26:55 (ESV) — ⁵⁵ But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

Numbers 27:7 (ESV) — ⁷ “The daughters of Zelophehad are right. You shall give them possession of an inheritance among their father’s brothers and transfer the inheritance of their father to them.



Ephesians 3:14–15 (ESV) — ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,



Genesis 4:1 (ESV) — ¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore (literally ‘begat’) Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.”

Genesis 4:18 (ESV) — ¹⁸ To Enoch was born (literally ‘begotten’) Irad, and Irad fathered (begat) Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered (begat) Methushael, and Methushael fathered (begat) Lamech.



“I grew up without a father or a father figure. Didn’t miss what I didn’t know.”

“My dad never knew who his father was and he’s survived into his 80s just fine ”

“Yes total nonsense. The mother is the key player in my view....carried the child and grew the child at the end of the day! I'm a single mother too...so perhaps I'm slightly biased ”

“I never had a father and I'm fine. Don't feel the need for one.”

https://www.mumsnet.com/talk/am_i_being_unreasonable/3463413-To-think-children-dont-need-a-father



“The crazy thing is, our culture encourages this distrust. So we jump up and bob our heads to ‘All my ladies who are independent, throw yo hands up at me.’ We are taught that we don’t need anybody. We feed ourselves words from the ‘gospel’ song, ‘As long as I got King Jesus, I don’t need nobody else.’ Truth is, we can’t do it on our own. It’s not good for man to be alone.”

(Linne, Blair, and Shai Linne. 2021. *Finding My Father: How the Gospel Heals the Pain of Fatherlessness*. Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company.)



Psalm 68:5 (ESV) — ⁵ Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 103:13 (ESV) — ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Jeremiah 31:9 (ESV) — ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.



Oxytocin and Fathers

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6838998/>



“Christiansen and Palkovitz (2001) have pointed out that the ‘provider role’ (referred to by McAdoo) is not just something American men *do*, it is a significant portion of their identity, of who they *are* as men. Men, black or white, have difficulty trying to assume the responsibilities of husband and father unless they are meeting the societal and instrumental requirements associated with being a ‘provider.’ This is underscored by the finding that for young, inner-city, black men in the eighteen to thirty-one age bracket, employment increases the likelihood that a young man will marry the mother of his child by eightfold (Testa and Krogh, 1995).”

(from Ed. Roberta L. Coles and Charles Green, *The Myth of the Missing Black Father* (Columbia University Press, 2010), 21.)



“As a father, it’s a daily fight to resist my own sinful tendencies towards anger, apathy, and authoritarianism.”

(Linne, Blair, and Shai Linne. 2021. Finding My Father: How the Gospel Heals the Pain of Fatherlessness. Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company.)



Proverbs 1:8, 10, 15, 2:1, 3:1, 11-12, 4:1,
4:10, 20, 5:1, 7, 7:1, 24, 8:32, 23:22



Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) — 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 13:24 (ESV) — 24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 19:18 (ESV) — 18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) — 6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.



“As a father, it’s a daily fight to resist my own sinful tendencies towards anger, apathy, and authoritarianism.”

(Linne, Blair, and Shai Linne. 2021. Finding My Father: How the Gospel Heals the Pain of Fatherlessness. Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company.)



