

*Joy Without Limits :*  
*The Joy of Fatherhood*  
**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*Sermon by Ray Reynolds*

Text : Luke 15:11-32

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” What a joy it is to be a father! The Bible is filled with stories about fathers and their children. God knows that we need more spiritual Christian leaders in the home today. What do we know about Christian fathers? I want us to consider one of the greatest stories in the Bible. Let’s study about the joy of fatherhood . . .

Discussion:

**I. A GOOD FATHER ALLOWS HIS CHILDREN TO CHOOSE (vs.11-19)**

He understands the desires of his children (vs.12-13).

He understands the disappointment of his children (vs.14-16).

He understands the discouragement of his children (vs.17-19).

**II. A GOOD FATHER AWAITS CHANGE IN HIS CHILDREN (vs.20-21)**

He knows that his children will experience reality (v.17).

He knows that his children will experience remorse (v.19).

He knows that his children will experience regret (v.20-21).

**III. A GOOD FATHER APPROVES OF CONFORMITY IN HIS CHILDREN (vs.22-24)**

He realizes that his children need a second chance (v.22).

He realizes that his children need a season of celebration (v.23).

He realizes that his children need a spirit of contentment (v.24).

**IV. A GOOD FATHER ACCEPTS THE CRITICISM OF HIS CHILDREN (vs.24-32)**

He does not condone the actions of the younger brother (vs.24-27).

He does not compliment the anger of the older brother (vs.28-31).

He notices a contrast in the aspirations between the brothers (v.32).

Conclusion: We need to praise God for our Christian fathers! I hope we can learn to be more like our Heavenly Father. His spirit of love and mercy in this story exemplifies the character of a good father. Do you love your Father? Have you told Him today?