



Sermon by Ray Reynolds
Father's Day Sunday (6/20/10)

Text: **Ephesians 3:14-15**

Introduction: I believe that the world needs strong leadership. We need good Christian men that will lead in a wise and honorable way. Paul believed that we should be copies of our Heavenly Father. What does that mean? Let's study together . . .

Discussion:

I. THE FATHER LISTENS TO HIS FAMILY

Exodus 3:7 = The Father saw the trouble of the Israelites in Egypt and delivered them.

Psalm 4:3 = The Father listens when we seek Him in prayer.

Psalm 22:24 = The Father does not ignore those in trouble. He doesn't hide from them.

Proverbs 15:29 = The Father hears the prayers of those who do right.

Echoed in **Psalm 34:14-16** and **I Peter 3:10-12**.

Matthew 7:7-11 = The Father provides good gifts for His children.

Remember the F.D.R. story about the long receiving lines at the White House.

II. THE FATHER LOVES HIS FAMILY

Remember the F.D.R. story about Paco in Madrid, Spain.

I John 4:8 = The Father is a Father of love.

John 3:16 = The Father only gives the very best for us.

Romans 5:6-8 = The Father's love is greater than we can imagine.

Ephesians 6:4 = The Father does not want us to provoke our children or make them angry.

Hebrews 12:5-6 = The Father has to correct us to help us.

II Peter 3:9 = The Father always keeps His promises.

Matthew 5:33-37 = The Father does not want us to make promises we cannot keep.

III. THE FATHER LEADS HIS FAMILY

Genesis 2:16-17 = The Father gave one simple command: "Don't eat from this tree!"

Genesis 3:6 = The Father witnessed the failure of Adam and Eve.

Adam lacked genuine leadership as did Cain, Noah, Lot, Esau, Judah and many others.

Eli (**I Samuel 2:29**), David (**II Samuel 11-12**), and even Solomon (**I Kings 11:1-13**) were also poor when it came to fatherhood.

Colossians 3:21 = The Father does not want us to nag our children.

Proverbs 30:17 = The Father provides instruction that should get our attention!!!

Remember the poem by Jo Ann Heidbreder.

Conclusion: We need to praise God for our Christian fathers. We need their example because they reflect our Heavenly Father. How's your relationship to your father? How about your Heavenly Father? If your relationship needs some improvement God is healing the broken at the foot of the cross! God is calling all prodigals to come home!

WORD OF THE DAY = "FATHER"