

• **Fatherhood In Focus**

061817AM

Proverbs 20:5-7

A study of 2,000 British parents found most children will put a new baby brother or sister at the top of their Christmas list . . .

Despite their material requests, the tenth most popular Christmas wish on the list was a "Dad".

The Telegraph, United Kingdom, 24 December 2012

- Fatherhood is designed by God to fill a vitally important role in the family and society.
- How we live, and how we bring up the children that we father, not only affects our eternal destiny, but theirs too!
- Fatherhood, for good or bad, has a profound effect on the present and on the future.

God's Plan for Fatherhood

- A father must be first a husband – Eph. 5:25-33.
- God never intended that children be brought into this world outside of the love and nurture of a father and a mother.

One in FOUR children in the U.S. is raised by a single parent – *By Daily Mail Reporter*

UPDATED: 06:37 EST, 27 April 2011

- Approximately 84% of custodial parents are mothers, and 16% of custodial parents are fathers – *U.S. Census Bureau, 2007*

The Father is to Lead the Family

- Eph. 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
- A father must be a provider for his home – 1 Tim. 5:8.
- A father must be the spiritual leader of his home – Eph. 6:4.
- Like Abraham & Joshua – Gen. 18:19; Jos. 24:15.
- Like Job – He was spiritual leader for his family – Job 1:5.
 - His outlook and life were centered on God – Job 1:21.

- Like Joseph – Mat. 1:18-25 – He loved God and he loved his wife.
 - Mat. 13:55 – He provided for his family.
 - Mat. 2:13-23 – He protected his family
 - Lk. 2:46-52; Mk. 6:3 – He led and taught his children by example and instruction.
- Not Like Eli – 1 Sam. 3:13; Eph. 6:4

Like Our Father in Heaven

- Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 3:1 – He LOVES.
- He provides – Mat. 6:32-33
- He teaches and corrects – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- He chastises – Heb. 12:6
- He protects – Heb. 13:5
- His goal is the salvation of our souls – 1 Tim. 2:3-4.
- **Decision... Priceless Goals of Fatherhood**
- Knowledge of God and a will to raise children who know Him, too – 1 Jn. 2:13.
- To raise children who are strong, in whom the word of God abides, and who can overcome the world – 1 Jn. 2:14.
- Children who will be filled with the love of God, rather than love of the world – 1 Jn. 2:15.

