



THE AUTHORITY

Man's or father's true authority was given at Creation by God through _____--as opposed to the world's system through _____ it.

Creation: Genesis 1.26-28 'Spitting image!'

Capacity to _____, _____, _____ & _____.

Genesis 2.15-17

First: Adam _____ was placed in the garden. (head)

Work it/ _____ it. Commanded to _____ anything but Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. _____ would lead to _____. (separated from God/life)

Then: God _____ woman. (helpmate) Adam _____ her Eve.

Genesis 2.21-24

An important part of Eve's creation was _____; 'leave and cleave'. This also was in God's _____ (triune but one). The Son and the Spirit were not _____ but fully God—of the Father.

Genesis 1.28

Then: Children were introduced.

Together as the first family—

~Be _____ / _____ in number;

~_____ the earth/ _____ it;

~_____ the creation.

So, the _____ took on the eternal _____.

Father

father

mother child

Son

Spirit

THE DECISION

Then: The _____ and the _____.

The scene: In the _____;

Serpent (Satan) _____;

Eve is _____;

Tells the _____.

The decision: Man had been given the _____ not to eat before his wife came along. He was given _____ and it was his _____ to make for his family. He _____, sinned and _____ was introduced.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Thus: 'Absentee fathers' was ushered in.

Adam's decision not only _____ him and Eve, but all _____ -- starting with his first _____ son, Cain.

Adam was now 'slaving away', sweating to hold it together _____ the garden instead of spending quality time _____ and _____ his family.

Fact: God has given fathers all the _____ and the _____. The question is-are we using either of them well? Fathers are the _____ of the family.

Absence: It is created through many avenues:

Teen pregnancy, abandoned mother and child by the father

Promiscuous lifestyle producing babies in a single household

Unfortunate death of the father

Divorce or physical separation

Married but fathers abdicating their responsibilities to the mother or others

Unskilled father

Unloving father

Disengaged father

Abusive father

Results: It quite often _____ to—

Crippled children who become crippled adults

Homosexuality and sexual promiscuity

Anger, resentment and/or isolation

Low achievement at school or work

Gangs, chemical abuse and crime

Suicide

THE OBJECTIVE

So: What is the desired alternative?

_____, garden dwelling fathers!

What does it look like?

My best definition is _____!

And what are its attributes?

_____ (physically, mentally, emotionally)

He _____ the role.

He is _____ to _____ the role.

He is a _____ under Christ's authority.

Matthew 28.18; Ephesians 5.22-23; Colossians 3.18-21

How can a fallen sinner be that kind of father?

- 1) _____ you can't;
- 2) _____ of your failures;
- 3) Seek _____ from others;
- 4) Become _____ to God's Spirit.

THE ROLE

Here are thoughts to consider in order to 'understand the role'.

As a man, you have been appointed by God to assume the supreme leadership in the home
With proper help, you are well equipped to assume this role
This leadership involves all your troops (wife and kids), not just you
You are the 'spiritual' leader, the primary channel of wisdom and knowledge
While discipline is for both parents, ultimately, it falls on the father
Final decisions are ultimately your responsibility-the buck stops here!
You are to model your role in a manner that prospers the family
You should continue to hone your skills as a father
Empower your children, don't control them
You must develop listening skills for constructive communication
Invest yourself in your children
Your eyes should be focused on the privilege you have to equip the next generation.

Brad McCoy, Colt's father, recently was quoted as saying—

'Don't prepare the path for the child; prepare the child for the path.'

First and foremost—you must determine this is your _____ and dedicate yourself to the

_____. It will be worth the _____! It begins by setting

_____, _____ the end result, _____ daily and

beyond, shoring up your _____, using your _____,

being _____, _____ and _____ God

for the outcome.

And for you older fathers, it never ends, only changes – they are still your family to influence!

Ladies, God designed you as a _____, not the _____--your greatest task and joy will be _____ him become what he was _____ to be.

The next five sessions will address the multi-faceted responsibilities of becoming an 'abiding father'.

Copyright 2010—*Abiding Fathers, LLC* (pending application)

www.abidingfathers.com

AF form # 2010.2