

## Portrait of a Father

### Introduction:

“The United States is becoming an increasingly fatherless society. A generation ago, an American child could reasonably expect to grow up with his or her father. Today, an American child can reasonably expect not to... Fatherlessness is the most harmful demographic trend of this generation. It is the leading cause of declining child well-being in our society. It is also the engine driving our most urgent social problems, from crime to adolescent pregnancy to child sexual abuse to domestic violence against women. Yet, despite its scale and social consequences, fatherlessness is a problem that is frequently ignored or denied.”

Fatherless America by David Blankenhorn

1. Why are effective fathers so **vital** to the health of our families and children?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is it so **difficult** for most men to be effective fathers?

## The Biblical Portrait of a Father ~ 4 Snapshots

### 1. He's a **LEADER**.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

- Definition = He makes things happen.
- Questions leaders ask:
  1. Where are we now?
  2. Where do we need to go?
  3. What must we do to get there?
- Focus = Objectives
- How?
  1. Modeling
  2. Taking initiative
  3. Setting direction
  4. Ongoing evaluation
- Stewardship = Morally responsible for the home before God.

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### 2. He's a **PRIEST**.

Deuteronomy 6:1-13

- Definition = He makes God known.
- Questions priests ask:
  1. Do my kids know God?
  2. Do they have an accurate view of God?
  3. Does our home honor God?
  4. Are we growing in holiness?
- Focus = Worship
- How?
  1. Modeling authentic worship
  2. Initiating family worship
  3. Encouraging private worship
- Stewardship = The spiritual climate of the home.

### 3. He's a **TEACHER**.

Ephesians 6:4

- Definition = He imparts wisdom and builds character.
- Questions teachers ask:
  1. What do they need to know, do, and be?
  2. How do they best learn?
  3. When and how will I teach them in this season of life?
- Focus = Wisdom
- How?
  1. Modeling a "Word-centered" life
  2. Formal instruction
  3. Informal instruction
- Stewardship = The transfer of godly wisdom to the next generation.

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### 4. He's a **LOVER**.

Malachi 4:5-6

- Definition = He gives people what they need most.
- Questions lovers ask:
  1. How are my kids “really” doing?
  2. Do they sense my approval and acceptance?
  3. Are we “connecting” at a deep level?
- Focus = Relationships
- How?
  1. Modeling a loving relationship with God and mate
  2. TIME
  3. Providing tender love unconditionally
  4. Providing tough love when necessary
- Stewardship = The “issues of the heart” in the home.

### **Application:**

How do you become the dad your kids need you to be?

1. It must begin with your **THINKING**.
2. It only becomes real with **SUPPORT**.
3. It requires supernatural **GRACE**.
4. It is sustained by pondering the **FUTURE**.