

## WHAT IS THOUGHT OF DAD IS THOUGHT OF GOD

### Proverbs 22:6

**Introduction:** It's no secret, children grow into adulthood with the same attitude of their parents, especially their fathers. Who is responsible for educating their children about God? Some think it is the Church, Sunday School, the Youth department and those do play a part but the ultimate responsibility of educating children about God is the parents, especially the FATHER.

The earliest concept of God in the mind of a child comes from what is learned from his/her parents, especially the dad, the father. The attitudes of youth and adults about God, the Church and the Christian life developed around what was seen at home in the life of the FATHER while growing up.

### I. GOD CAN BE LOVING, IF DAD WAS LOVING

1. Did Dad love just for the sake of loving.
2. Did Dad love without "strings" asking nothing back?
3. Did Dad love without leaving the impression that "I won't love you if you do this or that again?"
4. Countless children grow into adulthood and cannot understand how God can love them just as they are for their Dad had requirements for his love.

### II. GOD CAN BE "HOLY" IF DAD WAS HOLY

1. Did Dad live a Godly life while "you" were growing up?
2. Did Dad have respect and admiration of God and His Name and House?
3. Did Dad have a deep interest in God's Word, reading it daily, even to the rest of the family?
4. How many adults have no respect for the things of God, His Name, His Holy Word, His Church because their Dad didn't?

### III. GOD CAN BE "GIVING" IF DAD WAS GIVING

1. Most Dads show love for their children in some way, but how many gave freely to them?
2. When Dad gives freely, out of love, it forms a bond between Dad and his children.
3. *"...For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."*
4. Many adults can't believe that God wants to give something for nothing just because He loves you, their Dad never did.

#### **IV. GOD CAN BE "GENTLE" IF DAD WAS GENTLE**

1. Was Dad gentle and caring, taking time to listen to you as you grew up?
2. Was Dad gruff, loud, yelling, hateful over the least thing that didn't go his way?
3. *"...Be ye kind and compassionate to one another..." "...live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble..."*
4. Some can't understand that God is gentle and caring because their Dad never was.

#### **V. GOD'S WORD IS TO BE TRUSTED AND USED, IF DAD USED IT AND TAUGHT IT**

1. Nothing can replace God's Word as children's first guidelines, did your Dad teach you verses?
2. Did Dad's family rules come from God's Word or from his own upbringing?
3. Are you teaching your own children that they can trust God's Word and that it never gets out of date?
4. For many, they don't even have a copy of God's Word in their house, because Dad never did.

#### **VI. GOD IS WORTHY OF SERVING, IF DAD THOUGHT SO**

1. What did Dad do to get you to do what He said? Did he want you to obey him? Did you? Why?
2. Will your children know how to serve God? Will they be afraid of God because Dad made you afraid of him if you didn't do what he said?
3. Have your children seen you serving God out of love and not from fear or necessity?
4. How many adults never think of doing anything for God because their Dad never did?

#### **VII. GOD IS PATIENT, IF DAD WAS PATIENT**

1. God's love encompasses His patience and longsuffering, but what about your Dad?
2. Did Dad have angry outbursts, got moody at times and you never knew what he would do next?
3. Will your children understand God being patient because they are growing up in a home where Dad shows patience?
4. Many cannot grasp the patience God has with us because their Dad was impatient and would get upset very quickly.

## **VIII. GOD CAN BE TRUSTED, IF DAD COULD BE TRUSTED**

1. Did Dad ever break a promise or fail to keep a promise he made to you, maybe at the last minute, more than once? Did it disappoint you?
2. Dad's not keeping their word, not being able to be trusted creates doubt in the minds of his children and they grow up not trusting anybody.
3. Will your children believe God's Word can be trusted, simply because God said so?
4. Many adults don't trust God's Word because their Dad's word couldn't be trusted.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. No DAD is perfect! Children will imitate their Dad in some way or other when they are adults.
2. DAD, if you want your children to live Godly lives, then you are going to have to show them how right now while they are still at home.
3. DAD, God has placed upon your shoulders the tremendous responsibility of training your children. You are the one God will hold accountable for their up-bringing. How they turn out has much to do with how you are living before them. What kind of example are you setting right now?
4. DAD, do you need to make some changes right now? Once your children are teenagers, young adults, it's too late.
5. DAD, what do you want your children to think about God? What you think is what they are going to think when they are grown.