

Good Dad

Rich Dad, Poor Dad is a book by Robert Kiyosaki. It advocates financial independence through investing, real estate, owning businesses, and increasing one's financial intelligence.

Today I want to talk to you about *Good Dad*. By Good Dad I mean Father God. *How you perceive God is how you will receive from God.*

Luke 15:11-31

- "...had two sons."
 - Neither son understood the relationship the father desired to have with them.
 - Both sons based their relationship with Dad on money.
- The father obviously represents God the Father.
 - **Ephesians 3:14-15**, For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named...
 - Pater-father; patria-family
 - **Father from whom all fatherhood is named**
 - Fathers need to be strong & gentle
 - Teach with words, but mostly by example
 - Be more encouraging than punitive
 - **Romans 2:4**, "the goodness of God leads to repentance."
 - **Ephesians 6:4 (Colossians 3:21)**, And, you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - Remember that your kids are kids! **Psalm 103:13-14** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.
- Prodigal's return
 - Son knew he could go home. Unconditional forgiveness of father led to repentance of son. God's offer of forgiveness gives us the opportunity to repent and accept the deal.
 - Father treated his servants better than most free men were treated by the world.
 - Father ran to greet son.
 - If a Jewish son lost his inheritance among *Gentiles*, and then returned home, the community would perform a ceremony, called the *kezazah*. They would break a large pot in front of him and yell, "You are now cut off from your people!"
 - The father ran to meet his son to get to him before the community did. Father took the shame, humiliation and rejection on himself to spare his son.
- Contractual Relationships
 - Too many of our relationships are based solely on "If you do this, then I will do that."
 - Contract = an agreement between two or more parties for the doing or not doing of something specified; an agreement enforceable by law.
 - Something wrong when all of our life is based on contractual relations only!
 - Love is not a contractual agreement. Fatherhood is not a contractual relationship.
 - Based upon unconditional love of God.
- Neither son understood their father's love. Nor does one brother possess love for the other. Both are spiritually sick.

- We must not overlook the emphasis Jesus placed on the fractured relationship between the brothers.
- Because we do not understand our Heavenly Father, we cannot properly love each other.
- All the Father has is yours.
- Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."