

# Fathers - What Culture are You Building?

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June 19, 2020

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**Father's Day**

**June 21, 2020**

**The Good News is that those of us who have accepted Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord have been \_\_\_\_ into God's family, and we have the best \_\_\_\_ ever!**

**Culture - the values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of a group of people that create that group's \_\_\_\_ of fulfilling its purpose and going through life.**

**Every family also has its own culture, and the question is - is that culture \_\_\_\_ or accidental.**

**The Bible indicates fathers should be the \_\_\_\_ culture maker, the head coach, in partnership with their wife.**

*For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.  
—Ephesians 5:23 (ESV)*

**Working with their wives, God expects husbands to create the environment and culture of your \_\_\_\_.**

**The good news is that it's never too \_\_\_\_ to start building the culture God wants.**

*A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.*

*—Psalms 127:0*

*A Song of Ascents.*

*—Psalms 128:0*

**Songs of Ascents were essentially \_\_\_\_, sung as pilgrims and families traveled to Jerusalem to the Temple for one of the annual holy feast days.**

**These Psalms or songs prepared the family for worship and the feast, and so, they were building the \_\_\_\_ of that family and those worshippers.**

*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.*

—Psalms 127:1-2 (ESV)

**If God isn't part of and leading the process of building the "house" (family home), it's "in \_\_\_\_."**

**Building a house is building a structure, but building a \_\_\_\_ is building an environment, a culture.**

**The Psalm says that a home not built by Lord is a home marked by anxiety and worry, while the home built by God provides us a safe \_\_\_\_.**

**God is calling us to depend completely on \_\_\_\_ and put all our trust in \_\_\_\_.**

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

—Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV)

**At the end of our lives, we're not going to look back and be so proud of our house or how much money we made - we're going to reflect back on our \_\_\_\_, our relationships, and the quality and depth of those relationships.**

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the*

*man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

—Psalms 127:3-5 (ESV)

**Parents are God's chosen \_\_\_\_ of our children.**

**When children are raised in the right culture, they understand their \_\_\_\_ responsibilities.**

**There's nothing in these Psalms about wealth or position or power, because those things don't bring inner \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_.**

**Fathers are to train their children in \_\_\_\_, which is active work and requires effort.**

*It is not untypical of God's gifts that they are liabilities or at least responsibilities before they become obvious assets. The greater their promise, the more likely they will be a handful before they are a quiver full.*

—Derek Kidner

**We won't create the perfect culture, but if we don't keep trying, it \_\_\_\_ happen.**

*Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.*

—Psalms 128:1-4 (ESV)

**To fear the Lord means to \_\_\_\_ Him - to recognize He is all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere, and He completely loves us, which makes Him Holy, unlike anything or anyone else.**

*Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*

—Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV)

**The father who claims his primary responsibility for establishing the culture of the home is \_\_\_\_.**

**There's this incredible \_\_\_\_ ability to produce blessings, which makes the olive tree a powerful image.**

*The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!*

*—Psalms 128:5-6 (ESV)*

**As you and your family's influence spread, as the culture of the Lord becomes a part of other families around you, through God working in and through you, you bless \_\_\_\_.**

**A father's role is so much more important than being a provider - it's being one who helps establish God's \_\_\_\_, which brings God's \_\_\_\_!**