**Fathers and Sons**

**Why Do Sons Need To Be Especially Close To Their Fathers?**

*My son, give**me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,* (Proverbs 23:26)

As we saw in an earlier lesson, when they see us as having a loving Father in heaven, it helps them to be inspired by His love and to be motivated to come to know Him. The more deeply we love them, the more it will help them come to see the greatness of the love of God, who has made us loving fathers.

Because we share masculinity with them, they can learn from us the unique lessons about being a boy, and becoming a man. They can learn from us as we share with them the things we went through as young boys, some of which may be similar to what they are having to deal with now. They can see in us the example of how to become a godly, righteous, masculine man.

As they deal with sports, we can help them in the following ways:

* We can practice the sport with them, teaching them how to do it. (Examples: I trained my sons how to throw a football, and how to jog.)
* We can teach them that playing on a team is more important about building friendships with their teammates and encouraging them rather than simply about winning. We can teach them to celebrate but to not become arrogant when they win, and how to not become angry and bitter when they lose.

As they see in us how deeply we love their mother, they will be inspired and comforted, and will learn what they will need to be like in order to become a husband. It will also encourage them to see that being married is a positive blessing of love and joy.

As they mature, we can help them to come to understand the nature of sexual attraction to females – how it is a gift from God to us as males yet needs to be controlled so as not to make us surrender to lust. And let us also teach them to avoid and resist any sexually inappropriate TV shows or movies, and any online sexual videos or photos.

We can help them learn how to develop relationships with their siblings and other children they know, teaching them how, as young men, to be become good friends and to resolve conflicts. We can also help them to learn how to be close to their mother.

Above all, as we have taught in an earlier study, we can teach them how deeply that God and Jesus love both them and us. And, along with that, we can show and teach them how we consistently and warmly walk with our loving God by listening to Him through His Word and speaking to Him in prayer.

Fathers, may we follow the teaching below, and claim its promises:

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.* (Proverbs 3:1,2)

Study these passages as well: Proverbs 4:1,2; 4:20-22; 5:1,2; 7:1,2

After studying the above verses, may the teaching from the Apostle Paul in the passage below help us see that we are not to merely quote God’s Word to our sons (and daughters) when we seek to correct or rebuke them, but that we are to actually frequently share it with them as we teach them in a positive, encouraging way:

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* (Ephesians 6:4)