



**Fatherhood**  
**~ Leaving a**  
**Godly**  
**Legacy. Be**  
**intentional ~**



**Prepared and presented by**  
**Abraham Sackey**  
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# Expectations from this sermon



- **Do I expect anything to change as a result of this short sermon?**
- **Yes; otherwise it is an exercise in futility and total waste of time.**
- **Comfort to those who have fathers absent through death, especially in recent weeks. (Wife, children, family)**
- **Welcome to those who have recently become fathers and to let them know of the joys and privileges of fatherhood.**



# Aim and target audience



- This is primarily a message for fathers
- But it is also for every member of the close family; wife, children and to society at large.
- As we celebrate Father's Day 2020, the aim of this message is to:
  - Celebrate everything that is good about being a father by exhorting, affirming, inspiring, motivating and encouraging all men who are struggling with fatherhood that God will undertake for them.
  - Challenge men to rise up to the call to be fathers at home, in the church and in society at large.



# Warning: Please note well



- I perfectly understand that this subject may evoke pain for some people. For some it will be total regret.
- What is done is done. We seek to learn from our successes and mistakes and from those of others who have gone before us.
- We have no intention of causing pain or embarrassment to anybody.
- Neither do we intend to judge anybody.
- We aim to instruct, guide, admonish, encourage and to say to ourselves “come, man, we can succeed in our quest to fulfil our most important role as fathers.”
- One does not speak as an expert or a know it all.



# Definition of fatherhood



- **fa·ther·hood**
- ***noun***
  - 1. the state of being a father.**
  - 2. fathers collectively.**
  - 3. the qualities or spirit of a father.**



# Do I hear a sigh of resignation?~ 1



- Perhaps someone listening or reading these notes would ask whether it is ever possible to recapture what was lost long, long ago. They might say:
  1. The horse already bolted
  2. There has been too much water under the bridge.
  3. We are just chasing a lost cause.
  4. Is there something that can be done?
- My response is this that one should never discount the grace and mercy of God.
- In all things we need the intervention of Almighty God.



# Do I hear a sigh of resignation?~ 2



- **So, what next after the Lord has intervened?**
- **Same as it ever was?**
- **Certainly not. Nothing will change if nothing changes.**
- **Begin the journey because it is never too late**
- **Yes, time lost may never be regained but the healing process may just have begun in one person at least.**
- **The proverb 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step' puts forward the notion that, however difficult a task is, you can only complete it if you first start it.**



# Do I hear a protest?



- The laws of the land do not help.
- A man's sperm may have been stolen to conceive a child and so he is held financially responsible.
- A man is denied visiting rights and yet he is held financially accountable.
- He is not allowed to discipline and yet he is held financially responsible.
- It seems like all that is required of fathers is money, money, money and that is all that matters to the courts.
- What a wonderful world!
- Despite all these, men must not give up.





# What is fatherlessness?



- **In the normal cause of things, every child has a biological father!**
- **Therefore, by definition, fatherlessness is not the absence of a biological father.**
- **Fatherlessness is not living up to or fulfilling the functions of a father.**
- **Fatherlessness is the absence of all that comes with a father in the truest sense of the word.**
- **“The human father has to be confronted and recognized as human, as man who created a child and then, by his absence, left the child fatherless and then Godless.” (Anais Nin)**



# The role of a father



- **Fatherhood is male**
- **To be one in name and reality, the father must be present and available body, soul and spirit and with all the resources at his command.**
- **There are legitimate and godly reasons when one cannot meet all of the above conditions. These must be the exceptions rather than the norm.**
- **The role of a father amongst others must include:**
  - **Provision; love, finance,**
  - **Protection; physical, spiritual, warning, correcting**
  - **Direction; nurture, instruct, lead by example**
  - **Love; all the above and whatever else is required must be for the highest good of the child.**



# Fatherhood and authority



- **Fatherhood without authority is impotence**
- **Authority without responsibility is delusion**
- **Authority without responsibility is anarchy**
- **In a situation of anarchy things fall apart because the centre cannot hold**
- **Authority without love is tyranny**
- **Love is based on sound relationship first with one's self - having things in their right proportions and relationships.**
- **First love yourself – in the proper sense of the word – and then you will be in a position to love the fruit of your loins.**

# Good fathers – not a default level



- **To be a good father does not come as a set default level in the human DNA.**
- **It requires one to be intentional in one's role as a father.**
- **Just because you are the most spiritual person, seeing all kinds of visions, prophesying etc. will not make you a proper father.**
- **It is not integrated.**
- **Being spiritual and godly by itself does not make one a good father.**
- **Please speak to Eli, Samuel and David.**
- **They were anointed of God but had terrible sons.**



# Good fathers – not a default level ~ 2



- **Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas**
- **1 Samuel 3:13**  
And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.
- **Samuel and his sons**
- **David and his sons**
- **Absalom – murderer, seducer, abomination with his fathers wives and overthrew his father. His father would not touch the Lord’s anointed but he did.**
- **Amnon – Raped his half sister Tamar**
- **Adonijah -**



# Good fathers – not a default level ~ 3



- **1 Kings 1:6 (English Standard Version)**  
His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, “Why have you done thus and so?” He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.



# Fatherhood = Men manning up



Fatherhood - Leaving a godly legacy



**Men must man up so they can be fathers. Intentionality is a minimum requirement.**



**All Nations' Centre**  
The Apostolic Church

Abraham Sackey - Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry  
Tyers Terrace London SE11 5LY Tel: 020-7820-9917

# Fatherhood = Men manning up



Fatherhood - Leaving a godly legacy



**The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.**  
**- Henry Ward Beecher**



# A plea to mothers



- **Mother or wife, in order to be a real father I will need your wholehearted support! This is another way of saying “I cannot be a real godly father without you”**
- **This might mean that you will:**
  - **Back me up in front of the children by not seeking to blatantly undermine or challenge my views.**
  - **Not seek to expose my weaknesses but seek to address them in the best way possible.**
  - **Not seek to perform my role as a father.**
  - **If the need ever arises for you to perform my role you will do it with my consent and convey that message on “a need to know” basis.**



# The need for fathers: oh, and mothers



- **“People are saying it takes a village to raise a child, but first it takes a mother and a father, who are understanding, compassionate, nurturing, and responsible—working together to instil discipline, character, integrity, and responsibility in their children.”**



# What a shame!



- Ideally, the presence of a father should enhance the well being of the family unit or relationship.
- And yet, there are situations where the absence of the father is to be rather reluctantly preferred because he has become a destabilising influence in one way or the other.
- This is because he turns members of the family against each other, requires to be worshipped, terrorises some or all of the members of the family or comes with a package that is just not good for the welfare of the family unit as a whole.
- What a shame!



# My desires as a father ~ 1



- I would like my children to be able to:
  1. Confide in me
  2. Find a friend in me
  3. Ask for advise from me
  4. Love my company
  5. Have a chat and a laugh with me
  6. Advice me
  7. Trust me
  8. Boldly say of me: “That is my father”
  9. Boldly say “I admire my father”
  10. Gladly say “I owe a lot to my father”
  11. Say “I want to be like my father” (1 Corinthians 11:1)



# My desires as a father ~ 2



- I would like to be a father who brings out the best in his children and helps them to fulfil their dreams and destinies in God.
- I would like children of whom I can boldly say “This is my son or daughter”
- I would like my wife to be able to gladly say of me “This is my husband”
- This is what God the Father said of God the Son:
- For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (2 Peter 1:17)



# Conclusion



- The church and indeed the world is in need of fathers who are fathers word and in deed.
- Fathers must not forget the blessings that come when they function in their role as fathers.
- Fatherhood is a God given responsibility and privilege therefore we must do our utmost to enjoy the process of fulfil this most holy calling.
- One of your greatest memories may be the times you spent with your family; as you got married, the children where born, they grew up, you picked them up from school, sat at table as a family etc.
- Make sure that your memories will be good ones.



# Happy father's day



Fatherhood - Leaving a godly legacy

