

## **SERMON: THE INFLUENCE OF A GOOD FATHER**

### **PROVERBS 20:7**

**The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.**

#### **Introduction**

Most of life is a delicate balancing act. We want to be useful, but not to be used unfairly. We want to be concerned about others, but not intrude too much into their personal business. We want to be kind and compassionate, but we don't want to become everybody's door mat. This phenomenon –or should I say, perplexity- is also present as fathers seek to guide the development of their children. Good fathers find the balance between being an authoritative disciplinary tyrant and a liberal benefactor who give them anything that want- especially their daughters.

Our text implies a father who has found this loving balance. When a man lives a virtuous and honest life his children derive benefit from his goodness. They are the beneficiaries while he is still alive and beneficiaries after he transitions to eternity.

There are three key words in this text: just, walk, integrity. The word just describes fairness in dealing with others and rising to a high moral standard. Integrity means wholeness or completeness. It describes an individual who has a sufficient amount of all of the good qualities that makes him an asset to his family and others with whom he is in contact. Our English word "integrity" is derived from the same root that we get the mathematical term "integer" which is a whole number.

Walk is a figure of speech to describe the daily routine of an individual. It is what he does habitually.

Before I go to the exposition, let me say that we have many great fathers at Antioch-Lithonia. Let me say that again: We have many great fathers at Antioch-Lithonia. So, for those who are father already, I am preaching to the choir – and the ushers.

#### **Exposition**

##### **1. Provides the Grounding Essentials.**

(Food, Clothing, Shelter, and Protection.)

(Spiritual Formation and Salvation.)

## **2. Provides A Good Example.**

(A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words)

(A Video Is Better Than A Still Shot.)

(A Good Father Is A Living Video.)

(A Good Father Is His children's best role model.)

## **3. Provides Gracious Encouragement.**

(Speaks Positive Ideals Into Children's Lives.)

(Allows Each Child To Develop His Or Her Own Unique Gifts.)

(Loves Them The Same, But Does Not Treat Them The Same.)

(With The Encouragement Comes Great Expectations.)

## **Closing Thoughts**

Thank God for fathers. Thank God for Christian fathers. Thank God for our gracious heavenly Father, who, as our fore-parents said, "sits high, but looks low."

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

## **Related Scripture**

**Ephesians 6:4**

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