

WANTED: FATHERS



Teachers or Fathers?

- I Corinthians 4:15-16
- “There are a lot of people around who can't wait to tell you what you've done wrong, but there aren't many fathers willing to take the time and effort to help you grow up.” (MSG)
- The hinge:
 - ▣ Christ's First Coming – John the Baptist (Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 1:17)
 - ▣ Christ's Second Coming – The Church
- What being a father is **not**: a title (Matthew 23:9)

1. Know God

- I John 2:13-14
- John 17:3

- “know” = share intimately

*The “god” you know...
is the “god” you will be
to your children*

2. Be Merciful

- Luke 6:36
- Matthew 5:48

*The amount of mercy
you believe you have been shown by God
is the amount of mercy
you will show to your children*

- Psalm 103:13 – putting yourself in their shoes

3. Live a Blameless Life

- I Thessalonians 2:10-12

***Your kids say and do the darnedest things...
because they imitate you***

- Ephesians 5:1-17

Deeds of Darkness	Deeds of the Light
immorality and impurity	walking in love
greed	giving thanks
filthiness and silly talk	goodness, righteousness, and truth
coarse jesting (flirting)	what is pleasing to the Lord

4. Speak Encouraging Words

- I Thessalonians 2:10-12

*The words you speak
to your children now
will make or break
their relationship with you later*

- Matthew 18:1-11

5. Fight the Fight of Faith for Others

- Mark 9:14-27

*The small battles for your children
that you neglect now
are the big wars in their lives
that they will have to fight later*

To Be a True Father Is To...

1. **Know God**
2. **Be Merciful**
3. **Live a Blameless Life**
4. **Speak Encouraging Words**
5. **Fight the Fight of Faith for Others**