



The Day of the Father

The Power of Love and Acceptance
Cannot be Overstated!

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1 John 3 ^{1a} See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! NLT

1 John 4 ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. NKJV

The power of love and acceptance cannot be overstated. Criticism, belittling, shaming or any other form of manipulation will never make them be what you want them to be. In fact, those who feel criticized, rejected usually dig their heels in and become more defensive and existent to change. It's a well-known fact that people are only motivated to change if they feel loved, appreciated, and accepted. (Exceptions would be abuse, violence, betrayal) **Acceptance Paradox:** To get people to change, you first have to accept them as they are, warts and all only then will they be able to consider the possibility of changing.

Romans 2 ⁴ Do the riches of his extraordinary kindness make you take him for granted and despise him? Haven't you experienced how kind and understanding he has been to you? Don't mistake his tolerance for acceptance. Do you realize that all the wealth of his extravagant kindness is meant to melt your heart and lead you into repentance? ⁵ But because of your calloused heart and refusal to change direction, you are piling up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed. TPT

Malachi 4 ⁵ "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. ⁶ His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse." NLT

Luke 1 ¹⁶ And he will persuade many in Israel to convert and turn back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go before the Lord as a forerunner, with the same power and anointing as Elijah the prophet. He will be instrumental in turning the hearts of the fathers in tenderness back to their children and the hearts of the disobedient back to the wisdom of their righteous fathers. And he will prepare a *united people* who are ready for the Lord's appearing." TPT

Luke 15 ¹¹ Then Jesus said, "Once there was a father with two sons. ¹² The younger son came to his father and said, 'Father, don't you think it's time to give me my share of your estate?' So the father went ahead and distributed between the two sons their inheritance. ¹³ Shortly afterward, the younger son packed up all his belongings and traveled off to see the world. He journeyed to a far-off land where he soon wasted all he was given in a binge of extravagant and reckless living. ¹⁴ "With everything spent and nothing left, he grew hungry, because there was a severe famine in that land. ¹⁵ So he begged a farmer in that country to hire him. The farmer hired him and sent him out to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The son was so famished, he was willing even to eat the slop given to the pigs, because no one would feed him a thing. ¹⁷ "Humiliated, the son finally realized what he was doing, and he thought, 'There are many workers at my father's house who have all the food they want with plenty to spare. They lack nothing. Why am I here dying of hunger, feeding these pigs and eating their slop? ¹⁸ I want to go back home to my father's house, and I'll say to him, "Father, I was wrong. I have sinned against you. ¹⁹ I'll never again be worthy to be called your son. Please, Father, just treat me like one of your employees." ' ²⁰ "So the young son set off for home. From a long distance away, his father saw him coming, dressed as a beggar, and great

compassion swelled up in his heart for his son who was returning home. The father raced out to meet him, swept him up in his arms, hugged him dearly, and kissed him over and over with tender love. ²¹ “Then the son said, ‘Father, I was wrong. I have sinned against you. I could never deserve to be called your son. Just let me be—’ “The father interrupted and said, ‘Son, you’re home now!’ ²² “Turning to his servants, the father said, ‘**Quick, bring me the best robe, my very own robe, and I will place it on his shoulders. Bring the ring, the seal of sonship, and I will put it on his finger.**’ And bring out the best shoes you can find for my son. ²³ Let’s *prepare a great feast* and celebrate. ²⁴ **For my beloved son was once dead, but now he’s alive!** Once he was lost, but now he is found!’ And everyone celebrated with overflowing joy. TPT

8 Ways The Bible Describes A Good Father

1. He provides for his children - 1 Timothy 5 ⁸ *For if a believer fails to provide for their own relatives when they are in need, they have compromised their convictions of faith and need to be corrected, for they are living worse than the unbelievers.* TPT

2. He prays for his children - 1 Chronicles 29 ¹⁹ *and give my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies, and Your statutes, and to do them all, and to build the temple for which I have made provision.”* NASB

3. He is good to his children’s Mother - Ephesians 5 ²⁵ *And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, his bride. For he died for us, sacrificing himself ²⁶ to make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of the pure water of the Word of God. ²⁷ All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw. ²⁸ Husbands have the obligation of loving and caring for their wives the same way they love and care for their own bodies, for to love your wife is to love your own self.* TPT

4. He encourages his children - 1 Thessalonians 2 ¹¹ *And you know how affectionately we treated each one of you, like a loving father cares for his own children. ¹² We comforted and encouraged you and challenged you to adopt a lifestyle worthy of God, who invites you into his kingdom and glory.* TPT

5. He teaches his children - Proverbs 22 ⁶ *Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way that they should go, and the values they’ve learned from you will be with them for life.* TPT

6. He disciplines his children - Proverbs 13 ²⁴ *If you withhold correction and punishment from your children, you demonstrate a lack of true love. So prove your love and be prompt to punish them.* TPT

7. He sets a good example for his children - 2 Corinthians 3 ² *For your very lives are our “letters of recommendation,” permanently engraved on our hearts, recognized and read by everybody. ³ As a result of our ministry, you are living letters written by Christ, not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God—not carved onto stone tablets but on the tablets of tender hearts.* TPT

8. He loves his children - 3 John 1 ⁴ *It is the greatest joy of my life to hear that my children are consistently living their lives in the ways of truth!* TPT

Philippians 1 ⁶ *I pray with great faith for you, because I’m fully convinced that the One who began this gracious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁹ I continue to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure,* bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things. TPT