ARE YOU A GOOD FATHER?
Psalms 112:1-3

INTRODUCTION:
1. Since today is what we traditionally refer to as Father's Day I thought we would present a lesson specifically designed for we fathers.
   A. The Scriptures teach that the father has a distinct role in which he must follow in the home.
      1. It is only when he fills that role, in the manner that God would have him to do, that he will ever be counted as a good father by God.
   B. It is important to keep in mind that some times the world’s idea of what a good father is, and God’s idea are two different things.
      1. Therefore, we are discussing how God sees us.
2. This morning I want to present an important question to each of us who are fathers - Are You A Good Father?
   A. The following will help to determine whether we are or are not.

BODY:
1. A GOOD FATHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE IN THE HOME
   A. To be a good father one must go about his daily life setting good examples for his children.
      1. We have seen the picture many times of the father walking along the road with a child only a step or two behind.
      2. What a tragedy it is to see this happening while knowing that the steps are not worth following.
   B. Setting a good example is a part of training up a child - Eph. 6:4.
2. A GOOD FATHER HAS A GOOD ASSOCIATION WITH HIS WIFE.
   A. A good father will have a sacrificial love for his wife - Eph. 5:25.
   B. A good father will honor his wife for in doing so he teaches his children to do likewise - 1 Pet. 3:7.
   C. Many boys grow up not having a good understanding of what it means to have a good relationship with their wife because they never learned this in the home.
      1. Many times when that happens, it is the father’s fault.
3. A GOOD FATHER HAS A GOOD ASSOCIATION WITH HIS CHILDREN.
   A. A good father will recognize that his children are a gift from God - Gen. 33:5
   B. He realizes that he has been commanded to correct his children - Prov. 29:17.
      1. Correction does not always involve corporal punishment and a good father will seek to determine from the Word of God how and when such punishment should be handed out - Prov. 29:15.
   C. A good father also realizes that he should not provoke his children to wrath - Eph. 6:4.
      1. Children should be trained to be obedient to their parents from the earliest childhood.
      2. This training should be done in love for the child.
4. A GOOD FATHER REALIZES THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
SPIRITUAL WELFARE OF HIS FAMILY
A. He realizes that the command given in Ephesians 6:4 applies to his life.
B. He knows that he is responsible for the training of his children - Prov. 22:6.

5. A GOOD FATHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MATERIAL WELFARE OF HIS FAMILY
A. It is a tragedy to see men who claim to be loving fathers neglect this responsibility.
   1. The good father realizes that he has been told to provide for his family - 2 Cor. 12:14.
   2. As our heavenly father takes care of us we, as earthly fathers, should take care of our children.

6. A GOOD FATHER WILL BE HONORED IN THE HOME
A. He should be honored as the head of the home - 1 Cor. 11:3
B. He should be honored by his children - Ex. 20:12.
C. He will live such a life that he will command respect.

CONCLUSION:
1. Are you a good father?