

# **HARVEST ROCK CHURCH**

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## **TURNING THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THEIR CHILDREN**

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**TEXT: Luke 1:17 “It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”**

INTRO: People have different biblical numbers that are significant in their personal life. Pastor Sue’s number is 555, representing the emphasis in Zechariah 4:6-7 on “Grace, Grace, Grace.” The Hebrew word for grace appears two times in Zechariah 4:7 but is translated with three graces in some translations of this verse. Dutch Sheets’ and Lou Engle’s number is 222, referring to Isaiah 22:22.

My number is 17, and specifically 1:17. My birthday is January 17, but also the significance of this verse, Luke 1:17, came alive in my life during the years I served as President of TheCall prayer organization (2000-2003) and because of the impact of the reconciliation that I had with my dad in the early days of the Toronto Blessing Revival. I find it also interesting that John Arnott called the Toronto Revival “The Father’s Blessing.”

So, on this Father’s Day, I want to talk about the significance of the father’s blessing and the importance of fathers.

I believe that fathers are the key to a successful family, successful church, and successful society. Conversely, you could blame all the woes of the family and society breakdown on absentee fathers. For years I have said, “Everything rises and falls with leadership.” That is true, but I also want to say, “Everything rises and falls with fathers.” The way we are going to change society is through godly families. The key to having a godly family is having a godly father. Godly fathers are therefore the key to the transformation of society.

I am not talking about being a perfect father. If it was not for the grace of God and the gift Sue has been to me, I would have been a bad father. And my dad was an average father at best. I was raised by an absentee father. My dad was a typical Asian immigrant who worked two jobs to provide for us. I didn’t have a good role model in my dad. I will share how God healed and restored my relationship with my dad further along in my message. Having said this, I have learned the importance of the father. In 48 years of walking with the Lord, and having raised four adult children who love the Lord, and being married and



mentored by the best mother and wife in the world, I want to share three timeless reasons why fathers are so important for the family and our society.

## **I. FATHERS ARE THE FOUNDATION TO THE FAMILY**

### **A. GOD CREATED MEN TO BE FATHERS**

- 1. Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**
- 2. Man is made in the image of God. God has revealed Himself as God the Father. He made us to be fathers.**
- 3. All men are called to be fathers. “Be fruitful and multiply.” “Have plenty of children and be a father to them.”**

### **B. MAN IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAMILY**

- 1. Man was created first, then God created woman.**
- 2. Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”**
- 3. This is not a chauvinistic statement. Biblically speaking it is true, but the implication is that the man must be the support and servant to the family. It is all about servant-leadership.**
- 4. Equal worth but different functions.**
- 5. The analogy is that man is to be the foundation. The foundation of the house is not seen as something beautiful. It is functional. The house or the building is beautiful. So, the family is what is to shine. You can have the most beautiful building, but if the foundation is cracked, the building will be condemned. And if the foundation is bad, the building will collapse.**
- 6. Going up the stairs, man is to follow the woman. Going down the stairs, man is to lead the woman. Why? If the woman trips and falls, she falls on the man.**
- 7. Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**
- 8. Marriage is initiated by the man. By initiating the marriage, he is primarily responsible for the success of the marriage.**
- 9. The marriage rate in the United States has fallen to an all-time low. Today, an all-time low of 44.2% of Americans in the 25 to 34-year-old age bracket are married. Back in the 1960s, 70% of adults were married.**

10. God wants men (unless they are called to be single) to get married and become fathers.
11. When Adam sinned, God held Adam primarily responsible, not Eve.
12. **Genesis 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the *man*, and said to him, “Where are you?”**
13. **Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.**
14. **The first sin was rebellion and disobedience of the first man to his Father.**
15. Men can do extraordinary evil, more so than women. Men have been the ones behind the preponderance of genocide. You make a list of the Hitlers, Stalins, Maos. You don't have any women that stand out that led people to commit atrocities. I am not saying that women cannot commit murder; look at the women penitentiaries. But most murders and violent crimes are committed by men. Everything rises and falls with men.

#### **C. THE RESTORATION OF THE FAMILY THROUGH ABRAHAM**

1. God picks another family, starting with Abraham, who becomes a father of our faith.
2. **Genesis 12:2 “And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so, you shall be a blessing; 3 and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the *families* of the earth will be blessed.”**
3. **Seven promises to us through Abraham: (1) I will make you a great nation, (2) I will bless you, (3) I will make your name great, (4) You will be a blessing, (5) I will bless those who bless you, (6) I will curse those who curse you, (7) All the families of the earth shall be blessed through you!**
4. **Genesis 17:4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”**
5. The way God's blessing is going to be restored is by raising up godly fathers.
6. This is the word that Cindy Jacobs gave me, that I would be like Abraham and be a father of many. By God's grace, I am privileged to have spiritual children globally. People have been calling me “Papa Ché” for the last eight years. I think it is prophetic.

7. I received a word in 2017 from Ed Silvano that I was the spiritual father of Southern California. Then in 2019, when Apostle Maldonado came to Harvest Rock Church, he said that I was a father to the whole state of California. That is the reason why for about two weeks I was serious about running for governor of California.
8. But the bottom line is this: I am to be a cheerleader and mentor to those who do run for office.

#### **D. JESUS SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF FATHERS WHEN HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES TO ADDRESS GOD AS FATHER**

1. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, God is now our Father.
2. **John 20:17** Jesus said to her, “**Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and *your* Father, and My God and your God.’**”
3. Fatherhood is restored through the cross.
4. I have noticed that people don’t have any problems with Jesus, but they do have problems addressing God as Father because of their poor relationship with their earthly father. Many will pray to God by addressing Him as “Jesus” or simply “God,” but they subconsciously have a hard time calling Him Father.

## **II. FATHERS ARE THE KEY TO HISTORIC REVIVAL**

- A. **Malachi 4:5** “**Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. 6 He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.**”
1. This was the key verse for TheCall prayer movement.
2. The prophet Elijah was a revivalist who brought revival to the Northern Kingdom of Israel as they became Baal worshipers under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. I believe that the spirit of Jezebel is in our land like never before.
3. That revival spirit will come twice in history. First, before the Great Day of the Lord, which is the first coming of Christ. That anointing was on John the Baptist (Luke 1:17). And then, before the second coming of Jesus, the Terrible Day of the Lord when He will judge the nations (Matthew 25). That mantle is upon the Church.
4. Judgment begins in the house of the Lord (1 Peter 4:17). God is giving a prophetic invitation for fathers to turn their hearts toward their children first.



Then children will turn their hearts toward their fathers. God is specific: The primary responsibility is on the fathers.

5. The outcome is either revival or a curse, the destruction of society.

### **B. BEING RECONCILED TO OUR DADS**

1. I am convinced that turning our hearts to our fathers, and fathers turning your hearts to your children, is making sure that you are right with God and with your earthly fathers. That you forgive your father, and that you ask your children to forgive you.

## **III. THREE KEYS TO BEING A GOOD FATHER**

### **A. FATHERS NEED TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THEIR CHILDREN**

1. The problem with absenteeism.
2. **President Obama’s quote in 2008: “Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools; and 20 times more likely to end up in prison.”**
3. The word for orphan in the Hebrew means *fatherlessness*.
4. **Currently in the United States, roughly 45 million children under the age of 18 go to bed at night with no father present. The facts from *Father Facts* state, “In America, 24.7 million children (33 percent) lived in a biologically father-absent home in 2010. 20.3 million lived with no father (biological, adoptive, or step) in the home.”**
5. Not just there watching a TV with your child, but interacting with the child.

### **B. FATHERS, TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR CHILDREN’S EDUCATION**

1. God holds fathers responsible for teaching their children.
2. **Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
3. **Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my son, your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.**
4. **Proverbs 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.**
5. **Fathers teach by being a good example.**
6. Christlike character. E.g., Too much change at the grocery store.
7. The best thing a father can do for his children is to love his wife.

### **C. FATHERS, SHOW PLENTY OF VERBAL AND PHYSICAL AFFECTION**



1. Jesus at His water baptism. The Father gives the verbal affection, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
2. My father’s words of love and affirmation in 1995.

CONCLUSION: The greatest thing you can do is to encounter and receive the Father’s love.

**1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.** Receive the Father’s love by inviting Jesus into your heart. Then you can, by God’s grace, make a covenant to turn your hearts toward your home.