

Title: Children of Promise  
Text: Romans 9:26  
Date: June 16, 2013  
Place: Decatur Church of God

We have an organization under the umbrella of Church of God Ministries called Children of Promise. This group was established to provide financial assistance and aid for needy children through ministries of the Church of God outside the United States.

Children are the future leaders of the Church and the communities of the world. Many of them are being denied a promising future because of poverty, lack of education, and disease. Children of Promise is committed to providing assistance in these areas, to introducing each child to Christ, and to providing spiritual nurture. The organization is committed to helping build young lives all over the world that will be physically and spiritually healthy, as well as productive in the Church and community. The sponsorship and donations of churches and individuals works hard to help Children of Promise fulfill its purpose.

We have no problem recognizing the awesome need of children around the world. One of our further concerns centers on the fathers of these children. The other concern focuses on the number of men who have never really discovered that God is our heavenly Father and that we are his children of promise.

### ***Romans 9:16-18***

*It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. [17] For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." [18] Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.*

Hey, Dads, what is that our Children of Promise want from us?

## I. According to Promise Keepers, a men's organization, our children desire...

1. A Dad that is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### ***Romans 12:1-2***

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- The Apostle Paul

Also see: Psalm 95:1-7; 98:2-3, Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 3:3-13, Luke 18:1 John 4:32, Acts 2:30-39, Romans 12:1-3, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Galatians 2:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 12:1-11, 2 Peter 3:11, Revelation 4:8-11

2. A Dad that is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him remain a man of integrity.

### ***Eccles. 4:12***

*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

- The Apostle Peter

Also see: Genesis 14:12-16, Job 16:1-5, Proverbs 17:17;27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-11, Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 14:32-34, Luke 6:12-16, Acts 20:32-38, Romans 15:30-33, Colossians 4:7-9, James 5:16, 1 Peter 5:4-10, Hebrews 10:24, 3 John 3-4

3. A Dad that is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.

**Hebrews 4:15-16**

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**Romans 16:19**

*Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.*

- King David

Also see: Exodus 20:3; 33:12-17, Joshua 7:6-12, 1 Kings 11:1-12, 1 Chronicles 29:17-18, Psalm 101:2-4, Proverbs 11:1; 19:5; 20:11, Ecclesiastes 7:11-12, Song of Songs 2:4-7; 7:1-13, Micah 6:6-8, Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 16:19, 1 Peter 2:11-22

4. A Dad that is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values.

**Ephes. 5:25**

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

**Ephes. 6:4**

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

- Hosea

Also see: Genesis 2:22-25, Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Ezra 9:12, Esther 2:10-11, Job 1:1-5, Psalm 127:1-5, Proverbs 5:15-20; 17:6,

Proverbs 18:22; 22:15. Proverbs 31:10-31, Song of Songs 2:1; 4:1-7, Song of Songs 5:16; 8:6-7; 8:13-14, Joel 1:2-3, Mark 10:6-9, Acts 16:14-15 Hebrews 13:4

5. A Dad that is committed to supporting the mission of his church by honoring and praying for his pastor, and by actively giving his time and resources.

**1 Tim. 5:17**

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*

**Malachi 3:10**

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

**Galatians 6:3-6**

*If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, [5] for each one should carry his own load.*

*[6] Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.*

- Joshua

Also see: Genesis 45:8, Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 14:26-27, John 17:15-19, Acts 4:32-37; 5:12, Acts 6:1-5; 11:29-30; 28:7-10, Romans 12:4-8, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Philippians 4:10-18, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Peter 2:4-5; 4:8-11

6. A Dad that is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

**John 17:20-21**

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, [21] that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

- The Apostle John

Also see: Genesis 11:1-8, Leviticus 19:32-34, Numbers 25:1-18, Ruth 1:16-17, Proverbs 6:1-35; 22:2, Isaiah 53:1-12, Luke 10:25-37, Acts 10:24-33, 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:3-9, Ephesians 2:14; 4:2-3, Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 14:65

7. A Dad that is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Mark 12:30-31**

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

**Matthew 28:19-20**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- Barnabas

Also see: Exodus 1:15-27, Nehemiah 2:17-20; 5:14-18, Psalm 82:3-4, Proverbs 1:1-6; 19:17; 28:27, Matthew 7:15-20, Mark 12:30-31, Acts 5:38-39, Romans 10:14, Corinthians 9:19-23, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, 2 John 4-6.

Hey Dads, what is it that God wants from us, His Children of Promise?

**II. God expects from us the same commitment and practice that our children expect to experience.**

1. A son that is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. A son that is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him remain a man of integrity.
3. A son that is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.
4. A son that is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values.
5. A son that is committed to supporting the mission of his church by honoring and praying for his pastor, and by actively giving his time and resources.
6. A son that is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.
7. A son that is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

\* The story of Jim and Kitty Fassel begins 47 years ago.

Jim and Kitty Fassel were freshmen in college in Fullerton, California when they met, fell in love, and made a mistake. On April 5, 1969, a healthy baby boy was born and three days later given up for adoption.

On Mother's day, May 2003, they spoke on the telephone for the first time, and three days later they met face-to-face.

The Fassel's reunion with their son, John Mathieson, turned into a genuine reconciliation.

The family resemblance between Mr. Fassel and his long-lost son, John Mathieson, is obvious even at a glance, but for years Mathieson did not know who his true father was. He bore the image of his father but was unaware.

Mathieson recalls watching a November 2000 replay of Coach Fassel on television making a now-famous prediction. The Giant's were reeling from two consecutive losses at a time when they should have been ramping up for a playoff run. Most commentators were writing them off and Fassel used his post-game news conference to boldly predict that his Giants would make it to the playoffs.

Mathieson recalls: "I turned to Kristi [his wife], pointed at the television and said: 'That's what I would have done.' I said: 'That guy is doing the right thing.'"

Can you see some parallels to the story of humanity and our own "reunion" with our heavenly father? As Paul reminds us, we are "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24). Even though we bear his image, it often takes us many years to discover who it is that God made us to be.

God made us Children of Promise!