

GOD'S BLUE PRINT FOR FATHERS

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – June 21, 2009 (Father's Day)

John 3:16

"For **God so loved** the world that **he gave** his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish but **have eternal life**.

1. A FATHER LOVES.

Jesus said... (v. 16) "**For God so loved the world...**"

From Greek word "agape":

- to love **without condition**
- to love **without regard** for love **returned**
- to love **based on high regard** for an individuals **inherent value**

2. A FATHER GIVES.

Jesus said... (v. 16) **God so loved the world that he gave...**

"Agape":

- an **active** love ("Love is a Verb" - Steven Covey)

Romans 5:8

God **demonstrates his own love** for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

- Not based on **performance** or **merit**. It is just based on **whose** you are.

It's not enough to just love in our heart.

If we love, shouldn't we **demonstrate** it—And shouldn't we **say** it?

Contrary to popular belief, people can't read minds.

And true love is not a **feeling**.

If you love someone you must **say** it and **demonstrate** it.

Our heavenly father has **expressed** His love for us **through His Word** and **proved** it once and for all **through the sacrificial death of His Son Jesus Christ**.

3. A FATHER REQUIRES.

Jesus said... (v. 16) **...that whoever believes in him...**

We **don't** have the capacity to be **perfect**.

We **don't** have the capacity to **pay the price** for our own sins.

But we **do** have the capacity to **believe**. This is what God **requires** of us.

Biblical examples:

ELI (1 Samuel)

- Eli was **faithful** as a priest but a **failure** as a father
- His sons had no **respect** for God or His law
- They **defiled** sacrifices
- Extorted** those who brought offerings to God
- Slept** with the women who served in the temple
- Eli **knew** about their behavior, but did **nothing** about it
- As a result, God **judged** Eli

JOSHUA

- Led** children of Israel into promise land
- Faithful** servant of God and **faithful** husband and father
- As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.** (Joshua 14:15)

4. A FATHER PREPARES HIS CHILD FOR THE FUTURE.

Jesus said... (v. 16) **...that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

God has created a future for you and me.

- He is **offering** us eternal life
- He doesn't want us to spend eternity **without** Him
- He wants us to live forever in his **presence**, and He has provided a **way** to make that happen
- He did this by **sending** his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to **die** on the cross for our sins
- When we put our **faith** in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and God gives us **eternal life**.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.**

The **most precious gift** we can give our children is the **gift of Jesus Christ**.

CONCLUSION

God gives us a **Blueprint for Fatherhood**, because He is the **perfect father**.

- God Loves You!**
- God has Given His Son for You!**
- God Requires that You Trust in Him!**
- And God has Prepared a Future for You!**