

## No Fear of Rejection

May 14, 2017

### 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 NASB

7 **But we proved to be gentle** (*epios - mild, affable, friendly, relaxed, easy to talk to*) **among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares** (*thalpo - to keep warm, cherish with tender love, foster with tender care*) **for her own children.**

8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

11 **just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,**

12 **so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.**

*In the genius of God's wisdom and plan, every child needs the strength, correction and leadership of the father combined with the tenderness, gentleness and comfort of the mother. The child's rearing is incomplete without both, causing confusion in the very basic principles and dynamics of life.*

Dr. Ramey is the executive director of the Dayton Children's Hospital Center for Pediatric Mental Health Resources, March 23, 2014

*"While parents worry about the impact of peers, technology or a crass culture, teens consistently report that their moms and dads exert the most important influence in their lives.*

*Moms trump dads when it comes to importance, with 47 percent of kids reporting that moms are their most influential relationships, compared to only 20 percent for dads. Why do kids feel that way?*

*Moms are nicer. Kids generally describe their moms as more positive and less reactive. Kids generally feel they get in more trouble with their dads.*

*It's easier to talk with moms. One of my standard interview questions is to ask kids who they would go to if they have a problem. Kids typically say they would keep the problem to themselves, talk with a friend or speak with their moms. Dads rarely get mentioned. Kids complain that dads don't really understand their feelings, react excessively, or minimize their concerns.*

*We spend about 41 percent more money on mother's day than on father's day gifts. I wonder if that will ever change."*

**Luke 15:11-24 NASB**

11 And He said, "A man had two sons.

12 "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

13 "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

14 "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

15 "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

17 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'"

20 "**So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.**

21 "**And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'**

22 "**But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;**

23 **and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;**

24 **for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'** And they began to celebrate.

**The love and forgiveness of our Heavenly Father is:**

1. **IMMEDIATE** - *there was no deliberation, only an instantaneous, spontaneous response*
2. **INTIMATE** - *the father was not repulsed nor afraid of contamination, but he ran to embrace and kiss his son*
3. **UNCONDITIONAL** - *a list of what needed to be forgiven was never required - it didn't matter*
4. **JOYFUL** - *there was no sorrow, no regret - only unbridled rejoicing*

**Hebrews 10:19-23 KJV**

19 Having therefore, brethren, **boldness to enter** into the holiest **by the blood of Jesus,**

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And [having] an high priest over the house of God;

22 **Let us draw near** with a true heart **in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 **Let us hold fast the profession** of our faith **without wavering**; (for **he is faithful that promised**;) )

*We are not as the world demanding "no judgment!" The world wants to do whatever is right in their own eyes without any correction or rebuke.*

*Christians accept and agree with God's judgment on their sin. They know they are guilty. Yet they also know that Jesus paid the penalty in full for their sins so that now they can be free of any fear of rejection.*

**Hebrews 4:15-16 KJV**

15 For **we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are,** yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

**1 John 4:18 KJV**

18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

***If we are fearful to come to God with our weaknesses, failures and sins, afraid of rejection, then we will never be forgiven, cleansed, transformed, made perfect in His love, which will never reject us.***

Isaiah 40:11

11 He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.

*"Who is He of whom such gracious words are spoken? He is THE GOOD SHEPHERD. Why doth He carry the lambs in His bosom? Because He hath a tender heart, and any weakness at once melts His heart. The sighs, the ignorance, the feebleness of the little ones of His flock draw forth His compassion."*

--Charles Spurgeon, Morning and Evening

**1 John 1:5-9 NASB**

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.**

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

7 **but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

8 If we say that **we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

***Only in the environment of unconditional love, where no fear of rejection exists, can true, deep and lasting change and cleansing occur.***

***When no fear of rejection exists, one can bare all that is in their heart and soul without hesitation. Only then can transformation begin.***

***Jesus died on the cross, bearing our sin and our judgment, to obliterate any and all fear of rejection from our Heavenly Father. The promise of His unconditional love and acceptance has been written in the blood of Jesus. We can come boldly.***

**Francois de Fenelon, 1651-1715**

*“Although you have lived far from Him, you need not be afraid to come to Him like a child. Tell Him how weak and miserable you are, tell Him what you need and what bothers you. You may even tell Him that sometimes you are not exactly thrilled to serve Him. You cannot speak too freely or too truthfully to Him. He likes simple people and talks with them often. Put away all your grand ideas and just be honest with Him. Listen to what He tells you with an open heart. Turn a deaf ear to the world and to your unruly passions.”* Reservations

*“While you wait for God to deliver you from yourself, you need to take a good look at what you are like. Do not be surprised when you see yourself as you really are - impatient, stubborn, quick-tempered and arrogant. You must learn to be patient with yourself without cutting yourself any slack. Humble yourself beneath His hand.”* Self-Knowledge

**Psalm 18:35 NASB**

35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; **And Your gentleness (anavah - clemency, leniency, compassion, gentleness) makes me great.**

**Romans 2:4-5 NASB**

4 **Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness (chrēstotēs - goodness, gentleness) of God leads you to repentance?**

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

**Psalm 51:1 NASB**

1 **Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.**