

Conference on the Family Theme “Parenting the next generation”

Hosted at Uganda Christian University 19th to 20th August, 2019

Fathers and fatherhood for sons and daughters (Fathering Children)

By

Stephanas Galinnya

Learning Commons, Hamu Mukasa Library

Email: sgalinnya@ucu.ac.ug

31st July, 2019

Abstract

Children who have caring fathers in their future cannot become culprits of sexual abuse because of the excellent relationship they have experienced with the influence of their father’s sexual behaviours. Instead mothers act as security guards in relationship to their sons and daughters.

In this paper we shall discuss several matters concerning fatherhood parenting that is to say; the importance of fathers in the children’s life; because fathers impact a lot on the well-being starting from birth, emotional, security, confidence, environment and as children connect with others socially as they grow(Neale, 2015)(KAEBNICK, 2004).

Discuss matters of whether it is necessary to have a father element in the child’s growth involving whether fathers make their children proud, and it promotes the inner strength and growth, supportive and affectionate, social development as well as cognitive of the child(Baskerville, 2002)(JORDAN-ZACHERY, 2008).

The father's role to the children is very important because there are central persons in the emotional well-being of the children and they are essential disciplinarians. Fathers importance in daughter's life because they shape the self-esteem and psychological development of their daughters starting from the date of birth which is a bond key(Hazan & Zoabi, 2015)(Ling, 2017).

As well boys also need their presence of their fathers because this helps them emulate what their fathers do and it bonds a good relationship(Browne, 2013).

We shall also discuss what the bible states about fathers, God made it clear that fathers are created for a reason as it is stated in Exodus 20:12 *"Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you."*

This paper will also discuss the difference between a Dad and a father, whether fathers are necessary for the child's healthy development and how the father's relationship to both sons and daughters can be improved. It also address matters of father's role in parenting, their role in the family, address issues of fathers who are narcissists and if they do love their children(Johnson & Young, 2016)(KIPPEN, EVANS, & GRAY, 2007).

The Author will go ahead to present how mothers stop fathers relating to their children, the levels of love expressed to both son and daughters by the father. Another important matter will be to find out whether babies also miss their fathers, how children resolve with the separation of parents, custody battles, how fathers manage parenting after separation(Edmeades, Pande, MacQuarrie, Falle, & Malhotra, 2012).

Matters of what the bible addresses to the children and how much more will their father in heaven have for them. We shall also discuss matters of fathers who a deadbeat in their families how do children coup up with such parents.

In conclusion what we expect from the children's end such as; how they express themselves to their fathers, and their role in a family(Cundy, 2015)(Browne, 2013).

In nutshell, all the above areas of discussion are based on purely reviewed literature.

Key words; Fatherhood parenting, Fathers and sons, Fathers and daughters, Father and mother parenting, Bible and parenting.

Are fathers important in the children's life?

Fathers impact a lot on the well-being starting from birth, emotional, security, confidence, environment and as children connect with others socially as they grow (Neale, 2015).

Some parents believe in having favorite children and others deny it so. Favoritism in parenting is situation where parents are dearly forced to prioritise each child over the other. It can be due to biological sex of the parent and the child, where parents spend a lot of resources to their children currently better than previous generations. Fathers today with multiple children aim at balancing when it comes to their children. However, they show favoritism when children are still babies or the first born child.

Fathers are very essential because they take a tendency of maximizing child's future reproductive success which can be influenced by the health factors, environmental factors even when there is scarcity.

Another potentially importance of fathers in child's growth is that due to the sex of the child it might affect how the child is being catered for. For example on one hand a parent can spend more on boys than girls, this is seen especially during Christmas seasons when fathers buy or invest expensive electronic play game materials to the boy child and the girl child gets consumer products which are of less prices. This normally happens because fathers are the households of a family in one way or the other they manage the biggest portion of financial management in a home than mothers. However, when mothers take a greater say over household spending decision, their resources will be spent more to girls than boys (Nikiforidis, Durante, Redden, & Griskevicius, 2018)

The idea is consistent that gender, identity and the context of a family determines a lot on the child's future. Sons learn a lot from their fathers if the fathers themselves take time to get involved in their children's activities as well as involving their children in number of duties they archive. It also implies with mothers and their daughters.

Parents have always believed that they have in common with their children's concordant sex and think that because they are of the same sex it creates a stronger extension of his or her own identity. However, some studies have indicated that some fathers spend most of their time with sons and mothers spend it with their daughters. What does this imply? It means that father's importance in a boy child is very crucial and fathers of this generation have to take it serious as well very important because from that point of view we are building the next generation of fathers. Given the fact that the biological element correlates strongly however, not the entirely the social element also influences the child's future identity (Nikiforidis et al., 2018).

With life we rely on others to receive care. Providing intensive care to the children can determine the one's daily practices he or she is involved in. This requires radical reorganization and priorities which may or may not include distribution of resources like food, labour and materials. Family networks and people's movement helps a lot to fill the gap children would have when it comes to parenting and up-bringing. Therefore father element shapes at greater level with the dynamics that can occur across contexts, cultural, religion and social structures in shaping the child's growth. However, if the fatherly element is missing it will affect the child's future (Hanrahan, 2018).

Another important matter is that when fathers have good relationship with their parents who in reality are the grandparents of their sons and daughters it will create a synergy that these children can take a moment with their grandparents for example this can be on regular visits, holiday time being spent with them, attending ceremonies with their grandparents. However all this can be effective only when fathers are free to let their

children visit or even spend some good time with their grandparents. In this current generation things have changed, parent's no-longer want or admire their children to spend time with their parents due to some reasons given such as security, environment such as village set-up, nature of daily leaving but that mainly implies with families leaving in urban set-up and they do not see why the children should associate with their grandparents in rural set-up (Xu, Chi, & Wu, 2018).

Fathers are caregivers to their children, people can decide to be susceptible to interpret this intention and others can be distorted or biased depending on the meaning from personal experiences and how societies are structured. Therefore fathers being caregivers is one way of supportive intervention they have to fulfill for the cognitive behavior as a technique in the upbringing of the child. It also means that when fathers are giving it should not be based on bias or stigma but in contrast, might end up into reciprocal enrichment to increase the relationship and social functionality of the children in a home. That is why it is very important for the fathers to ensure that you do not scare away children from their homes because it affects them so much negatively in their all life(Dam, Boots, Van Boxtel, Verhey, & De Vugt, 2018).

Is it necessary to have a father element in the child's growth?

Family is a widely recognized as the most important barrier to the strength as well as the equality of opportunities in a society. Even if parents have different efforts and resources to raise children, children have their own opportunities to also pursue their achievements when they become adults. When children are raised by wealthy, educated, emotionally stable, supportive and loving parents they enjoy opportunities of development and their capabilities during growth is valuable, as well as good neighborhood and stable relationship than those who are disadvantaged to such parenting (Engster, 2019).

Fathers are necessary because in most cases they do determine the principle to provide equal opportunities of distribution of resources to all children, however much sometimes when it becomes to polygamies family some children can miss the good opportunities.

The value of a family is childrearing in the first place and this can be distinguished with family that takes it essential to the integrity of the children which can promote the important values to the children as they grow up. It is better fathers to know that children have great interest in health, shelter, nutrition and healthy physical development. The rest of the matters such as cognitive, moral development, care and support, emotional, educations those are taken up as father's role but all that cannot be achieved unless when the child's interests have been fulfilled. Therefore it is very essential for a fatherly element in a child's life(Engster, 2019)(Hamenoo, Dwomoh, & Dako-Gyeke, 2018).

Father's role to the children is very essential

Fathers influence their children's development in many avenues both through direct and indirect interactions as well as providing educational services to enhance the learning and growth of their children. In terms of social interactions fathers have a unique and directly paternal sensitivity when they interact with their children to help measure the child's cognitive and language abilities across the race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status so long as the fathers are socially competent and bear a clear streamlined relationship with their children.

Staying and leaving with the children affects the child's growth positively and such children grow up recognizing the father element in a home. However we have those who leave homes early morning and return late in the evening when children are sleeping, hence having less time with their children however much they are resident fathers. And therefore the quality of outcome predicts the outcomes of the child. This can affect the child's performance in school, impaired cognitive function, aggression, delinquency in children.

Father's role in a child can also be reflected in their relation to the mothers of the child through marital or coparental interactions. If there is any conflict in such a home children will be much affected, the father's conflict with mother, stress brought at home from work, mental health all that can harm parenting behaviors and this can affect the entire system of the family, including partners (Cabrera, Volling, & Barr, 2018).

Parent's development and health contributes a lot on the children's future. There are fathers who are obese and this occurs due to what they eat or take every day, it affects the born or the to be born child. Overweight and obesity in this generation is a major health issue and to make matters worse, the levels of obesity and overweight affect so much the subsequent generations and it makes it unclear for the future of the child. On that note parents have to watch what they eat, duties they perform and how to account for their leisure time well, because scientifically fathers contribute higher to both the fetus and as well as the born child(Soubry, 2018).

Fathers play a very significant role in the behavioral growth, social and emotional development of children focusing on the behavioral parent training (BPT). Fathers who are fully involved in the BPT have improved parenting behavior and their children have benefited directly. However, there has been a limit for father's efforts at utilizing the BPT especially when it comes to prevention efforts. Most cases the parenting literature for fathers targets on deficit model which depicts their ineffective parenting.

They also have the responsibility for the preschoolers supporting them for success, where parents are supposed to be trained to "*work with end in mind*" this helps the children to learn better and parents are accessible, effective and engaging in a child's education. This can be done well when institutions like Community Parent Education programme (CPEP) is set up by ministry of Education and Sports in every community to help young fathers because in reality many cases we have seen mothers at school meetings, visitations, disciplinary cases for children and fathers are nowhere to be seen(Chacko, Fabiano, Doctoroff, & Fortson, 2018).

Parents genes are passed over to their offspring which makes it that children will either have more or less susceptible to particular orders or disorder. Not the least but also parents use their parenting strategies which can contribute to the maintenance of the childhood mental disorders, corporal punishment is also associated with a child outcomes and a child will learn certain behaviours from the parents such as through condition, listening, procedures like reinforcement/punishment. As well as the parents own characteristics, personality, coping and psychopathology can play a very essential role. Hence parents leading fully to the development of their children's psychopathology in different ways.

The parent and children psychopathology in most cases are always specific for example *“having a parent with a mental disorder is associated with a higher risk for children to develop any mental disorder”*(Weijers, van Steensel, & Bögels, 2018).

Do we have a difference between a Dad and a father?

Fathering scholarship is expanded to construct the involvement of father more to a Dad in three strong core elements to their children that is; engagement, accessibility and responsibility.

To start with accessibility is where a father who goes beyond fathering and is emotionally present, physically available to the children, secondly engages in child one-on-one activities such as feeding, putting a child to bed, playing and thirdly, responsible to make important decisions about the children's life and plan as well assist in providing the resources needed in a family (Charles et al., 2018)(Evertsson, Boye, & Erman, 2018).

Despite the responsibilities of up-bringing children, father parents decide to take responsibility housework, caring for firstborn to all mothers have bond with the newly born and parents both juggle care between the young infants and the babies. Therefore a Dad is a person who will go an extra mile to help his wife with all age groups of children God has blessed them with that is babies, toddler age, infant age, young teens,

teens as well as those in twenties. But fathers will end at paying school fees, paying house utilities and the rest of responsibility is left to the mother element(Lingala & Ghany, 2016)(McPherson, Banchefsky, & Park, 2018).

Father's role in parenting and family

Parenting is very important and plays a unique role in shaping of the child's wellbeing. It focuses on enhancing the consistence and quality of parenting which is a positive effect in children's behavioral, health, cognitive and education output especially for the children with emotional and behavioral challenges. The participation of a fatherly element in parenting intervention improves a lot of the children's outcome when they a grown-up adults. With that note all male parents you are advised to please take time and be available for your children.

Many fathers today have a believe and thinking that taking and bringing back children from school, paying school dues, health care and saving for children's is enough but parenting goes beyond that. We need to utilise the little time we have to play, interact, prayers and worship, taking meals, break teas if possible with our children. It creates and develops bondage between a Dad and a child (Sicouri et al., 2018).

Depending on the levels of involvement it affects the parenting of a child, when children are developing the positive growth is determined by the time fathers spend with their children. In most cases resident fathers have more time and it bring quality levels of a child which is a different case with fathers who are non-residents (who work abroad, always on Safari etc.). However, fathers who are completely absent to associate with their children it leads to less success in education, aggression, delinquency in children and impaired cognitive function. And children who are having resident fathers can easily control their emotions effectively than those who have no contact.

Father's role is also to ensure that they affect their children indirectly in terms of investments and use of money/funds so that children learn to improve their quality of

living even if when they start managing their life independently that is when in twenties or after studies and they earn an employment.

They also influence children's relationship with their mothers that is in terms of marital interactions, father's mental health, stresses brought home from work place, conflict with mothers of which they can harm the child's growth. Therefore fathers have to ensure that all the noted characters are always not practiced in the presence of the children to streamline the smooth growth of the children.

Fathers' mental health it is many times under looked yet it determines a lot on the child's growth and when children are transiting during parenthood they need a men element in their life otherwise it creates a risk to depression. Low-income fathers also affect the entire family administration as well it will create a low relationship between the family and relatives, but also children will be affected because in many cases they will always be segregated in the society because they are coming from a low income family. Therefore fathers today need to work hard to ensure; children don't starve, not segregated in society, enjoy the basics of life such as; good feeding, play toys, games and outings(both children and their mother)(Cabrera et al., 2018).

How mothers stop fathers relating to their children.

Despite research advances about fathering many issues have remained as they are. The quality of father parenting has received little intervention because fathers are always busy working for their family and have limited time to engage with their children. On that note mothers take advantage of the children's wellbeing and the fatherly parenting is not recognized. This discrepancy is both in urban and rural areas you find that fathers in urban set up are busy working leaving home at 6:00am and returning at 11:00pm or more as well those in rural areas leave homes around 7:00-9:00am but during those morning hours they cannot even take their own children at schools and later in the evening spend time watching matches, taking alcoholic drinks and when on

return they just sleep. At the end mothers have played even the fatherly role indirectly(Charles et al., 2018).

Discipline is also very important because it plays an important role for both parents to either be in touch with children or not. Everything the parents do affects the psychological and moral development of their children and parents raise their children focusing on physical punishment which point to issues of gender, age of both parents and children, education levels of parents, number of children in a home, the economic standards of the family will all influence the disciplinary measures of children.

Take scenario when the mother earns more than the father, mothers always have a tendency of discussing their wealth or financial status with their children especially when children demand a lot from their father and in one way or the other as the head of the household has delayed or failed to deliver. Mothers will share with children where the challenge is and how they can resolve it soon than fathers. This is done when children are in age bracket of young teens (8-10 or 10-14 years) Teenagers and sometime twenties age. This will break the bondage children have had with their fathers previously. It will also create depression, sometimes masochistic sex which are also linked to parental use of physical punishment, physical child abuse, alienation, especially when such is used up to adolescence stage(Carvalho, Fernandes, & Relva, 2018).

Do babies miss their fathers?

To start with pregnancy is the most glorious, important and stressful period of any woman in life. The physical and emotional health of a woman determines a lot on the significant growth of the fetal. During the fourth International conference on population and development The World Health Organisation reported that every two minutes a woman dies during delivery but this can be prevented when fathers' participation is encouraged and promoted. Women who gain or benefit from the presence of their husbands during and after pregnancy feel empowered to manage the pressure and

difficulties of pregnancy, labor and even at time of delivery(Firouzan, Noroozi, Mirghafourvand, & Farajzadegan, 2018).

Therefore father participation is very important in the babies because it starts all way when the child is still in the womb. However, the willingness of fathers to participate in women's health has increased and in some countries policies have been put in place, though not fully yet implemented. In Uganda it depends on number of issues such as; up-bringing (family where the male parent grew up) culture, social wellbeing, education levels, income levels determine the fathers participation(Firouzan et al., 2018).

How children resolve with the separation of parents

Interpersonal conflict is a natural inevitable and part of family life. Disagreements and differences between parents, children and parents, or between siblings including riches and challenges of family relationships. Separation of parents is driven by conflict, conflict is a complex which includes frequency, duration, nature, pattern, mode of expression, intensity and mode of resolution.

However, there is post separation of parents which has three dimensions that is; the area of disagreement, the manner at which parents settle disputes both formal and informal, and emotion based attitudes to themselves and children.

Children who have been affected by this kind of environment some have been able to fight back by standing on ground and tell their parents what they like and deserve from them, telling each parent differently what he/she has to do with the situation. However, others have resorted at leaving their parents homes and went to different areas such as relatives, streets in urban areas and others have joined drug/robbery/theft groups(Smyth & Moloney, 2019).

Can fathers manage parenting after separation?

Fathers do not want to be held 100% responsible for the upbringing of children they are always interested to have a small portion of their attention in all this. The complexity is

unsurprisingly when it comes to children's welfare services and it mostly reflected to the mothers. Even in daily leaving, social workers have focused on mother element when children are left after separation. Men have always taken their children to their mothers, sisters or female friends to take care of their children because for them they cannot manage to look after them. However, there are some men a few who have taken the initiative to look after their children(Philip, Clifton, & Brandon, 2018).

Fathers need to be much involved in many activities such as attending school activities of their children, do some voluntary ministry at the schools of their children, celebrate children's birthdays, sports days and so on (Buston, 2018).

Never the less, fathers need to show support and love to the children that their separation was not caused by the children because when they are still young they tend to think that because their existence that is why parents got misunderstandings. It is very important to remind children that all what happened was a mistake between Mummy and Daddy not them so that they grow up knowing they are not the trouble causers and it gives them assurance when they grow up they can manage their own marriages God will bless them with(Lingala & Ghany, 2016).

Fathers as well as mothers also need to share their parenting plans to the children and an agreement has to be reached, such as at time for prayers, watching television programmes, games, bed time and this will help children to grow with discipline of managing life. Routine and rhythm are very important to all the children so that they can grow up with parenting styles and if there are on-going conflicts children should not be involved anywhere (Bonsall, 2018).

Fathers who are narcissists do they love their children?

Narcissist person is the one who has excessive interest in himself. Such people are in our society and we leave with them. Such people have signs and symptoms such as;

they have a sense of entitlement, grandiose sense of self-importance, they frequently intimidate, bullies, demeans and belittles others, always look for constant admiration and praise as well they live a fantasy life which can support their delusions.

Fathers who are narcissists their children learn to play their own part and deal with their own skills in public, but they have no memories of having been appreciated or loved by their fathers because they always associate with others and bear experience of the society love not parents. Fathers who are narcissist are as well not willing to identify with the feelings and the needs of their children as well as their wives(Diamond, 2018)

The central function of a child begins with the mother and subsequently continues to the father's recognition of the child, a parent's image is very important to develop maturity capacity of the child. When a father fails to recognize their children's unique subjectivity and see children as an object it will lead to developmental pathology results. This will lead to break down which may result into endless cycle of recognition and negativity attitude to the child.

The significant thwarting due to individuating needs will lead to cruelty, perversion, depression, addiction, self-destructiveness, violence and narcissist among others. Fathers who are able to achieve essential recognition of their children creates symbolic paternal function and the child is likely discern what he/she as a child needs from the parent in relation to the children's developmental challenges.

Nonetheless, fathers today should also understand that myths like paternal violence towards a child is an exploitation, lack of paternal differentiation from the children as well as issues of unconscious rivalry and impaired triangulations, have to be watched out clearly(Diamond, 2018).

Never the less due to some fathers who are narcissist children can result into what is called the Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) which is an outcome of neglect, emotional abuse, overt behaviours conducted by the alienating parent who tries to

undermine their children. This PAS involves alienating parent who may take lead to encourage a child to reject his father or mother, the target parent who will be isolated by the children and lastly the target child who will at the end reject support and the parent.

Therefore fathers who are narcissist need to style up because at the end either mothers or any other elder in the home will inform the child to reject you and whatever you perform the child will have no interest and you will no longer be appreciated at any one time.(Harman, Kruk, & Hines, 2018) (Doughty, Maxwell, Slater, Cardiff University. CASCADE Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre., & Wales. Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service., 2018)

There are symptom which develop up due to the above PAS as noted below; *“the child lack of ambivalence to one of the parents or both, the child argues about the parents thought and they want to own theirs, the child has reflexive support of alienating parent in conflict manner, the child has an absence of guilt of their behaviours towards their parents, the rejects can spread to the extended family as well as the community, the parent will always rely on weak rationalization for deprecations of the parent.”*(Indonesia, 2015) (Harman et al., 2018).

Matters of fathers who a deadbeat in their families how do children coup up with such parents.

Deadbeat this is a person who is not responsible and not willing to fulfill his or her responsibilities in a home or community. With that note, deadbeat parents or fathers these are the parents who do not fulfill their parental responsibilities most especially the adopted children or those they did not acquire by a biological birth (Reid & Golub, 2018)(Battle, 2018).

Thousands of children are growing up without father element, many of these lost their fathers through divorce or natural death. Men who were born to mothers who are unmarried are most likely to also give birth to children with the same upbringing and share the same distant relationship(Gachago, Clowes, & Condy, 2018)(Arditti, Molloy, Spiers, & Johnson, 2019).

However, much social science research indicates that children raised by both parents do better than those raised by a single parent it is also better for children raised by a nonresident father but he gets sometime for the children.

Many of the African children have fallen into culprits because we have a high rate of Teenage pregnancy and fathers who are not ready to take up the responsibilities. Even if we have policy makers who have set up policies over the same issue but it has not yet yielded much out of it (News, 2016)(Harman et al., 2018).

But many of these challenges are out of poverty in our communities African children are disproportionately poor and do not receive support but instead they get assistance from the general public especially financial support. Fathers are also poor themselves that many of them are unemployed but because of ignorance in one way or the other they give birth to children unplanned for well, in the end children suffer(Group, 2018).

Fathers matter a lot to children's development because they create a relationship of great importance and as we have discussed earlier this counts to the child's emotional, social wellbeing a child as well as excellence in education. Therefore fathers, however poor or bankrupt they are, should always take note to share the little they have with their children, so that children grow up knowing that fathers care about them in all situations (Maldonado, 2006).

Expectation from the children's end; how do children express themselves to their fathers?

Children express themselves to their parents or fathers in different ways as discussed;

Children deal express themselves through feelings to the adults that is by facial expression, body language, behaviours and play. And they act according to their physical feeling.

However, toddlers also express their feeling in the natural setting of the day-to-day activities of their parents, therefore parents have to behave in a manner where children can exercise their expression to their parents (Scharp & McLaren, 2018).

When it comes to security, parents have to express that they are always available to secure their children emotionally, spiritually, and socially. This can lead to confidence to in the children.

There is need to use the words especially with the toddlers because when they are growing up words help to express an emotion in the first step dealing with disappointment, embarrassment, frustration and anger because parents react differently. This encourages children to learn and use words to meet with empathy and anger (Wirth et al., 2019).

For children to express themselves well we need to remind them that they are unique and everyone's life experience and expectation is not shared by any other because people are different in one or the other. Children with different age groups also have different abilities and this vary their level of emotional maturity (Cabrera et al., 2018).

As the parent be able to answer the "whys" with that note teenagers need to parents' attention so that they are able to have clear response to whatever comes across their life. And this helps them not be frustrated, but to appreciate themselves (Wirth et al., 2019).

Parents also need to practice relaxation methods especially when children impose anger. Parents can use phrases, images, words to bring up the mid of the difficult situation of the child. As children get older you have the obligation to teach them techniques like meditation, breathing etc. (Diogo, Silva, & Viana, 2018).

As parents we can use cognitive therapy which helps people to look at matters as a new way instead of saying that everything is awesome.

Never the less there can be alternate ways to handle certain situations such as focusing on the steps to face issues and recognize every problem which is not proper because you may not resolve everything on time. Children need to be encouraged to think before they act so that they are able to get the right solution of any different conflict

As well we also need as parents to work on the communication skills by not just jumping into conclusions we need to learn to teach children on how to express themselves appropriately. Ensure that they can learn to listen to other what they are saying and also think before they speak or act.

We also need to encourage our child to learn to step away from difficult situations and provide themselves to reflect both the past and future. We have to teach our children especially the older ones not remove themselves from situation which are difficult but we can encourage them to cool down and resolve the matters amicably(Eremenko & González-Ferrer, 2018).

To encourage our children to take things from another point of view because even young children can understand when someone is angry or sad, this can help children to have empathy over certain situations (Hiller et al., 2018).

What does the Bible state about fathers and their children?

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, God taught His people to teach children to love God with all their heart, soul and strength. That would mean that they should love God only since childhood this commandment is a requirement to parents both fathers and mothers to love each other as they are examples to their children how God loved us. In the New Testament Jesus also taught people to follow Him and teach children to love God with all their hearts, soul, mind and strength.

It is very important that the bible emphasizes parents to have closeness relationship to their children from birth until when children grow up and this will determine how children

will respond to the all experience in their lives. And this emphasizes children to also be willing to sacrifice their lives to serve God after seeing and learning from their parents. The spiritual growth of children is determined by parents and they are responsible to help their children in spiritual character education however, much there is an opportunity children to learn this from Sunday school lessons every Sunday, but parents take an upper hand (Pranata Santoso, 2018).

Parents who build their believes in the relationship with God and follow His word will be able to manage their role as parents because of their expression from heart to respect and fear God. Even if the real formation of character is by God but He is pleased with parents who channel their lives to Him he blesses them and also the children.

“God had created human as hard wired to connect and this is the most fundamental revolution of the relational revolution; that is God hard wired our brains-and our souls-for relationships. God created and designed human’s brains –hard wired to connect in two ways, to connect relationally with Him and other people, and to connect to a sense of spiritual meaning and purpose. God de-signed us to enjoy relationships with Him and others. So the goal of spiritual growth is becoming more loving God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Love is about connecting with God and others in relationship. God designed us to connect relationally through love and to grow spirituality throughout our lives. Close relationship and the development of the brain is called transformation process. This is directly influenced by the relationship of a person with God and others. Relationship with God and others are what change us to become more like Jesus.”(Pranata Santoso, 2018).

In the Hebrew Bible we read about a number of children whom God used such as; teenage Rebecca who decided her own fate (Genesis 24:15-28, 55-59), Moses’s young sister Miriam who takes risks to ensure safety of her baby brother (Exodus 2:5-9). The little boy Samuel who heard voice of God and delivered in painful prophecy (1Samuel 3:2-19), David the shepherd who defeated the fierce Philistine warrior (1Samuel 17:31-51), Prophet Jeremiah who received calling while he was a child (Jeremiah 1:4-10) and many others (Parker, 2019).

In Ephesians 6:4 fathers are not to cause angry to their children but to train them in the instructions of the Lord. As it is emphasized in Ephesians 4:26 *“if fathers enraged their children and produce the opposite effect to what they were seeking, for anger is sinful”*.

Fathers are supposed to continue with the process of bringing up and giving training as well as instructions in a home from early ages that is elementary to late teens if possible to even twenties who have not yet got married or left their parents' home as we read in Ephesians 5:31.

Paul the apostle addresses children directly not only parents that it is a two way responsibility during the times of prayer, worship the all family should converge together as it stated in Ephesians 6:1-3. As well it indicates that children are old enough to receive instructions Ephesians 1:1. In other words fathers and mothers are one flesh and share in the responsibility to discipline and disciple children together(Keller, 2012).

Conclusion

Fatherhood parenting requires one to put into considerations matters discussed above. However not forgetting that there much more to consider and among these fathers can use platforms existing to promote parenting, strengthening their scale of parenting programmes, enhancing their workforce competence in a delivery evidenced-base parenting intervention. As well to not overlook parenting engagements, develop and disseminate the best practices of parenting. In nutshell the Bible also recommends as fathers in **Ephesians 6: 4** *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”* and **Colossians 3:21** *“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”*

References

- Arditti, J. A., Molloy, S., Spiers, S., & Johnson, E. I. (2019). Perceptions of Nonresident Father Involvement Among Low-Income Youth and Their Single Parents. *Family Relations*, *68*(1), 68–84. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12346>
- Baskerville, S. (2002). The politics of fatherhood. *PS - Political Science and Politics*, *35*(4), 695–699. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096502001191>
- Battle, B. P. (2018). Deservingness, Deadbeat Dads, and Responsible Fatherhood: Child Support Policy and Rhetorical Conceptualizations of Poverty, Welfare, and the Family. *Symbolic Interaction*, *41*(4), 443–464. <https://doi.org/10.1002/symb.359>
- Bonsall, A. (2018). Narrative transitions in views and behaviors of fathers parenting children with disabilities. *Journal of Family Studies*, *24*(2), 95–108. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13229400.2015.1106336>
- Browne, J. (2013). The default model: Gender equality, fatherhood, and structural constraint. *Politics and Gender*, *9*(2), 152–173. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X13000020>
- Buston, K. (2018). Recruiting, Retaining and Engaging Men in Social Interventions: Lessons for Implementation Focusing on a Prison-based Parenting Intervention for Young Incarcerated Fathers. *Child Care in Practice*, *24*(2), 164–180. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13575279.2017.1420034>
- Cabrera, N. J., Volling, B. L., & Barr, R. (2018). Fathers Are Parents, Too! Widening the Lens on Parenting for Children's Development. *Child Development Perspectives*, *12*(3), 152–157. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12275>
- Carvalho, J., Fernandes, O. M., & Relva, I. C. (2018). Family Functioning and Its Relation to Parental Discipline. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, *35*(1), 31–44. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-017-0501-9>
- Chacko, A., Fabiano, G. A., Doctoroff, G. L., & Fortson, B. (2018). Engaging Fathers in Effective Parenting for Preschool Children Using Shared Book Reading: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, *47*(1), 79–93. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2016.1266648>
- Charles, P., Spielfogel, J., Gorman-Smith, D., Schoeny, M., Henry, D., & Tolan, P. (2018). Disagreement in Parental Reports of Father Involvement. *Journal of Family Issues*, *39*(2), 328–351. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X16644639>
- Cundy, J. (2015). Supporting Young Dads' Journeys through Fatherhood. *Social Policy*

- and Society*, 15(1), 141–153. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746415000524>
- Dam, A. E. H., Boots, L. M. M., Van Boxtel, M. P. J., Verhey, F. R. J., & De Vugt, M. E. (2018). A mismatch between supply and demand of social support in dementia care: A qualitative study on the perspectives of spousal caregivers and their social network members. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 30(6), 881–892. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1041610217000898>
- Diamond, M. J. (2018). When Fathering Fails: Violence, Narcissism, and the Father Function in Ancient Tales and Clinical Analysis. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 66(1), 7–40. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003065118761106>
- Diogo, A. M., Silva, P., & Viana, J. (2018). Children’s use of ICT, family mediation, and social inequalities. *Issues in Educational Research*, 28(1), 61–76.
- Doughty, J., Maxwell, N., Slater, T., Cardiff University. CASCADE Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre., & Wales. Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. (2018). *Review of research and case law on parental alienation*.
- Edmeades, J., Pande, R., MacQuarrie, K., Falle, T., & Malhotra, A. (2012). Two sons and a daughter: Sex composition and women’s reproductive behaviour in Madhya Pradesh, India. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 44(6), 749–764. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021932012000119>
- Engster, D. (2019). Equal opportunity and the family: Levelling up the brighthouse-swift thesis. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 36(1), 34–49. <https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12279>
- Eremenko, T., & González-Ferrer, A. (2018). Transnational families and child migration to France and Spain. The role of family type and immigration policies. *Population, Space and Place*, 24(7), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2163>
- Evertsson, M., Boye, K., & Erman, J. (2018). Fathers on call? A study on the sharing of care work between parents in Sweden. *Demographic Research*, 39(1), 33–60. <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2018.39.2>
- Firouzan, V., Noroozi, M., Mirghafourvand, M., & Farajzadegan, Z. (2018). Participation of father in perinatal care: A qualitative study from the perspective of mothers, fathers, caregivers, managers and policymakers in Iran. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 18(1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-018-1928-5>
- Gachago, D., Clowes, L., & Condy, J. (2018). ‘Family comes in all forms, blood or not’: disrupting dominant narratives around the patriarchal nuclear family. *Gender and*

Education, 30(8), 966–981. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2016.1259464>

Group, A. (2018). SINGLE MOMS AND DEADBEAT DADS: THE ROLE OF EARNINGS , MARRIAGE MARKET CONDITIONS , AND PREFERENCE HETEROGENEITY * By 2006 , the United States reached a “ dubious milestone ,” as over half of all births to women under the age of 30 were to single mothers , 59(1), 191–232.

Hamenoo, E. S., Dwomoh, E. A., & Dako-Gyeke, M. (2018). Child labour in Ghana: Implications for children’s education and health. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 93(July), 248–254. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.07.026>

Hanrahan, K. B. (2018). Caregiving as mobility constraint and opportunity: married daughters providing end of life care in northern Ghana. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 19(1), 59–80. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2016.1257734>

Harman, J. J., Kruk, E., & Hines, D. A. (2018). Parental alienating behaviors: An unacknowledged form of family violence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 144(12), 1275–1299. <https://doi.org/10.1037/bul0000175>

Hazan, M., & Zoabi, H. (2015). Sons or Daughters? Sex Preferences and the Reversal of the Gender Educational Gap. *Journal of Demographic Economics*, 81(2), 179–201. <https://doi.org/10.1017/dem.2014.12>

Hiller, R. M., Meiser-Stedman, R., Lobo, S., Creswell, C., Fearon, P., Ehlers, A., ... Halligan, S. L. (2018). A longitudinal investigation of the role of parental responses in predicting children’s post-traumatic distress. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines*, 59(7), 781–789. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.12846>

Indonesia, G. B. (2015). No 主観的健康感を中心とした在宅高齢者における健康関連指標に関する共分散構造分析Title.

Johnson, M. S., & Young, A. A. (2016). Diversity and Meaning in the Study of Black Fatherhood. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 13(1), 5–23. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1742058x16000047>

JORDAN-ZACHERY, J. S. (2008). Policy Interaction: The Mixing of Fatherhood, Crime and Urban Policies. *Journal of Social Policy*, 37(1), 81–102. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s004727940700150x>

KAEBNICK, G. E. (2004). The Natural Father: Genetic Paternity Testing, Marriage, and Fatherhood. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 13(01), 49–60. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0963180104131101>

Keller, T. J. (2012). Copyright © 2012 Michael Raymond Galdamez All rights reserved.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has permission to reproduce and disseminate this document in any form by any means for purposes chosen by the Seminary, including, without limitation,.

- KIPPEN, R., EVANS, A., & GRAY, E. (2007). Parental Preference for Sons and Daughters in a Western Industrial Setting: Evidence and Implications. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 39(4), 583–597. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0021932006001477>
- Ling, M. (2017). Precious Son, Reliable Daughter: Redefining Son Preference and Parent-Child Relations in Migrant Households in Urban China. *China Quarterly*, 229(February 2017), 150–171. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741016001570>
- Lingala, S. M., & Ghany, M. G. M. Mhs. (2016). 可乐定和右美托咪啶产生抗伤害协同作用 HHS Public Access, 25(3), 289–313. <https://doi.org/110.1016/j.bbi.2017.04.008>
- Maldonado, S. (2006). Deadbeat or Deadbroke: Redefining Child Support for Poor Fathers. *UC Davis Law Review*, 39(991), 991–1023.
- McPherson, E., Banchevsky, S., & Park, B. (2018). Psychological consequences of the Dad Bod: Using biological and physical changes to increase essentialist perceptions of fathers. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 76(March), 330–336. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2018.02.012>
- Neale, B. (2015). Introduction: Young Fatherhood: Lived experiences and policy challenges. *Social Policy and Society*, 15(1), 75–83. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746415000536>
- News, T. H. E. F. (2016). THE FORTUNE NEWS “ THE DEGREE OF CIVILIZATION IN A SOCIETY CAN BE JUDGED BY, XLVIII(June).
- Nikiforidis, L., Durante, K. M., Redden, J. P., & Griskevicius, V. (2018). Do mothers spend more on daughters while fathers spend more on sons? *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, 28(1), 149–156. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcpy.1004>
- Parker, J. F. (2019). Children in the Hebrew Bible and Childist Interpretation. *Currents in Biblical Research*, 17(2), 130–157. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1476993x18821324>
- Philip, G., Clifton, J., & Brandon, M. (2018). The Trouble With Fathers: The Impact of Time and Gendered-Thinking on Working Relationships Between Fathers and Social Workers in Child Protection Practice in England. *Journal of Family Issues*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X18792682>
- Pranata Santoso, M. (2018). The effective pattern design for children education to raise godly children based on Biblical standard. *International Journal of Engineering &*

Technology, 7(2.10), 107. <https://doi.org/10.14419/ijet.v7i2.10.10966>

- Reid, M., & Golub, A. (2018). Low-Income Black Men's Kin Work: Social Fatherhood in Cohabiting Stepfamilies. *Journal of Family Issues*, 39(4), 960–984. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X16684892>
- Scharp, K. M., & McLaren, R. M. (2018). Uncertainty issues and management in adult children's stories of their estrangement with their parents. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 35(6), 811–830. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407517699097>
- Sicouri, G., Tully, L., Collins, D., Burn, M., Sargeant, K., Frick, P., ... Dadds, M. (2018). Toward Father-friendly Parenting Interventions: A Qualitative Study. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy*, 39(2), 218–231. <https://doi.org/10.1002/anzf.1307>
- Smyth, B. M., & Moloney, L. J. (2019). Post-Separation Parenting Disputes and the Many Faces of High Conflict: Theory and Research. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy*, 40(1), 74–84. <https://doi.org/10.1002/anzf.1346>
- Soubry, A. (2018). POHaD: why we should study future fathers. *Environmental Epigenetics*, 4(2), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eep/dvy007>
- Weijers, D., van Steensel, F. J. A., & Bögels, S. M. (2018). Associations between Psychopathology in Mothers, Fathers and Their Children: A Structural Modeling Approach. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 27(6), 1992–2003. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-018-1024-5>
- Wirth, A., Reinelt, T., Gawrilow, C., Schwenck, C., Freitag, C. M., & Rauch, W. A. (2019). Examining the Relationship Between Children's ADHD Symptomatology and Inadequate Parenting: The Role of Household Chaos. *Journal of Attention Disorders*, 23(5), 451–462. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1087054717692881>
- Xu, L., Chi, I., & Wu, S. (2018). Grandparent–Grandchild Relationships in Chinese Immigrant Families in Los Angeles: Roles of Acculturation and the Middle Generation. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 4, 233372141877819. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2333721418778196>