

P603

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

THEME: WHAT MAKES A GOOD FATHER

SONGS: BE 3:42

I LIFT MY HANDS

Intro: What would happen if a football coach started playing the game WITH the players, or worse yet, kicked some of them out and took their place? That's not how it's supposed to happen in the game of football...OR in the game of life, either. A father's job is to GUIDE his children into what God has for THEM to do, not do it for them. In other words, he should be their coach, and teach THEM how to win. Today on Grace Notes, our host Barbara Sandbek will share some thoughts on what it takes to be a good father.

Neither my husband nor I had ever cared for a baby before our first son was born. When they brought him into the hospital room to dress and take home, we thought we'd break his fragile neck putting his undershirt on. We felt so inadequate. We've come to realize that raising each new child requires new tactics as well – yet unlearned.

That's why it's important for a father to be teachable and to get training from the right source, like a coach does from his manager. Proverbs 3:5-6 says...

Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.

It's consoling to know that even though fathers may make mistakes, their Heavenly Father is always there to pick them up and show them the right way. Now, that's a reason to praise the Lord.

***** **WRITER: Sandi Patty**

**** I LIFT MY HANDS ** LENGTH: 3:45**

VERSE 1

***My Father in heaven
Who reigns in power and glory
Your kingdom eternal
Thy Word is everlasting
Almighty Creator
Who rules a vast dominion
Enduring forever
Through countless generations
Praise the Lord from the highest of mountains
Praise the Lord from the lowest of valleys
For as long as I live I will give Your praise***

Chorus

*I lift my hands to You
In the heavens where You reign
I lift my hands to You
And the glory of Your name
To the wonder of Your love I lift my hands*

VERSE 2

*My watchman, my keeper
Whose eyes are ever on me
I wander, You find me
And rescue me from danger
My blessed Redeemer
Spared not Your Son to save me
You cleanse me and crown me
With great love and compassion
Let the words of my mouth be as praying
And may the prayers be as incense before You
As for as long as I live I will give You praise*

Repeat CHORUS

*No other God before Thee
You are my Lord, will always be
Praise the Lord from the highest of mountains
Praise the Lord from the lowest of valleys
And for as long as I live I will give You praise*

Repeat Chorus

And to the wonder of Your love I lift my hands

A GOOD FATHER SEEKS GUIDANCE FROM HIS HEAVENLY FATHER.

God instructed men to be fathers to their children, but He never told them to be a parent in His sight. Father's can be unduly burdened by the parenting task when they expect too much out of themselves and not enough out of God. God is the greatest manager of all. He sees the beginning from the end and He knows what strategies work.

**A father's influence over a child is SIGNIFICANT. And because of that,
A GOOD FATHER MUST FIRST SUBMIT HIMSELF TO GOD.**

Coaching is serious business. A good coach is dedicated to directing HIS own team. A father's job should be taken even more seriously – there's a life at stake.

A GOOD FATHER SANCTIFIES HIMSELF FOR HIS CHILDREN.

This means he sets himself apart for the spiritual guidance of his own children, like Jesus did. In Jesus' prayer to His father in John 17:19, He said..

For them, (his spiritual children), I sanctify myself that they, too, may be truly sanctified (or made holy).

A child's impression of God most often is formed from his view of his father. It's true, a dad can't save his child's soul, but he can live a life that points that child to Jesus Christ, who alone can save.

A good coach diligently follows his handbook.

**A GOOD FATHER SEARCHES GOD'S WORD – the BIBLE...
for instructions for living.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says...

All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED for every good work.

Scripture provides the equipment the father-coach needs to ready his team. And he must not only teach it, he must live it. The Lord instructed fathers in Deuteronomy 6:5-7 saying...

Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**A good coach shows his team what to do and how to do it. So, too,
A GOOD FATHER SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE.**

I had trouble finding examples of good fathers in the Bible. Eli, the priest, and even King David neglected to discipline their children and suffered severe consequences. Jacob played favorites...and the list goes on. I did find one, however – Abraham. He wasn't perfect, but he taught his son Isaac how to have faith – which was played out with Isaac's unquestioning obedience to his father when asked to lay on the altar.

Truly though, there is only one perfect father – our Father Jehovah God. He never makes mistakes - He never needs to say 'I'm sorry', and He always disciplines correctly.

Hebrews 12:10-12 says...

Our fathers, disciplined us for a little while as they thought best but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and PEACE for those who have been trained by it.

A father who loves the Lord and responds properly to his own discipline from God, will learn to execute Godly discipline in training his children.

A good coach takes time to learn the strengths and weaknesses of his players so he can develop a customized plan for them.

A GOOD FATHER SEEKS TO KNOW HIS CHILD.

Proverbs 22:6 says...

Train up a child in the way HE SHOULD GO and when he is old he will not depart from it.

And he starts early. The saying goes...

The cure for crime is not in the electric chair, it's in the high chair.

Our Heavenly Father knows us in detail. Matthew 10:30 says that...

Even the hairs of your head are numbered.

When's the last time you counted your child's hair strands? The real question is - How well do you know your child?

A good coach cheers his team on.

A GOOD FATHER SUPPORTS HIS CHILDREN THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT.

Paul, in addressing the church in 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 said...

You know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children...ENCOURAGING, COMFORTING, and URGING you to live lives worthy of God.

Our Father, God, is Spirit, but represents Himself to us in ways we can understand. The Bible says He has a heart that loves, eyes that watch over us, hands that guide and ears that listen. The more a father learns about the Lord the more he becomes like Him.

A GOOD FATHER SYMBOLIZES GOD TO HIS CHILDREN THROUGH THE USE OF THE FACULTIES GOD GAVE HIM

Listen now to this song of dedication – a father's prayer.

***** BE *****

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Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

or visit us at our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

Until next time, let your grace notes be a song of praise!