**ON BEING A FATHER**

"Father" -- Etymology: Probably from one of the first syllables uttered by babies, pa- plus the Indo-European kinship suffix -ter, also found in "mother," "sister," and "brother." This gave us the ancestor of Greek "pater," Latin "pater." That devolved into Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese "padre" and French "père." In the Germanic languages we find English "father," German Vater," Norwegian "far," Swedish "fader."

God could've had Himself addressed in the Bible as Your Excellency, Your Honor, Your Majesty, Omnipotent One, Grand Poobah, The Big Guy or The Man Upstairs.

**TODAY’S BIG QUESTION:** **Why do you suppose that God chose to be called Father, that He wants us to call Him Father? And what implications does that have for fathers today?**

John 6:43-48

1 Thess. 2:11-12

2 Thess. 2:16-17

How did your father, step-father or the most significant older man in your life shape your life? If you grew up having no such relationship, how did that shape your life? What do you wish he'd done for you that he didn't?

What should a father give his child? Life, his name, protection, a family, shelter, food, clothing, sense of belonging, mentor/role model, a sense of being loved, a sense of having a place in this world, preparation to be independent and whole, discipline, etc.

**THE BLESSING**

**By Gary Smalley and John Trent**

Give that person a place of honor in your life

Tell that person how much you honor him/her

Give that person meaningful touch

Picture a special future for that person

Tell that person that you'll always be there for him/her; then be there.

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