

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE AMERICAN ABOLITION OF FATHERHOOD



Of all the gifts God imparted to Adam and Eve, none compare to the beauty and wonder of procreation. The godlike ability for a man and a woman to share in the conception and birth of a human life surpasses every other endowment God bestowed on those He created in His image and likeness. And that endowment is not only a wondrous gift, but a grave responsibility.

The conception of a human life that will exist throughout eternity was never designed by the Creator to satisfy lustful desires or to provide sexual pleasure outside the bonds of holy matrimony. Children were ordained to be conceived through a husband and wife's most intimate expression of their love for each other. It is the love of a father and a mother that was designed to nurture their children and raise them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Anything less is only a fraction of what God intended.

I am not criticizing the innocent children conceived out of wedlock and raised in single-parent families. And I believe that most single parents do their very best for their children. Still, a single-parent family is not God's original design. The church has a solemn duty to minister

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to the broken people who are the victims of fractured families in this fatherless generation.

Through the glorification of sex in our pornographic culture, the heavenly gift of procreation has been prostituted and defiled. To satisfy unbridled lust, unwanted children are conceived in selfishness and then terminated without any regard for the new life that was created. This rejection of God's greatest gift is the total abandonment of fatherhood. Every time a child is aborted it is a brazen affront to the Creator. Abortion is the ultimate rejection of the fatherhood of God. It is the climactic manifestation of the rebellion of the human race that Adam initiated when he disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. The spiritual darkness gripping our nation that condones the murder of the unborn is the damning evidence that our culture's revolt against God is absolute.

Pure fatherhood is an attribute of the divine nature. Fatherhood in perfection emanates from God. Original sin severed the father/child relationship between God and those He had formed in His image and likeness. In that rebellious moment in the garden of Eden, the capacity to reflect the pure fatherhood of God in the fallen human race began to deteriorate. God is the creator of every human being, but as the Redeemer, God is only the Father of those who have experienced a divine rebirth into the family of God.³⁴ Mankind rejected the fatherhood of God through the fall. To this very day that rejection has continued and intensified in rebellious humanity.

Pope John Paul II made it clear when he said, "Original sin is not only the violation of a positive command ... but ... attempts ... to abolish fatherhood, destroying its rays which permeate the created world."³⁵ This is a powerful truth revealing the essence of the fall, which was a refusal to live in the divine order revealed in the fatherhood of God. All sin is a reinforcement of the creation's continuous rebellion against the fatherhood of God.

As reverence for biblical truth faded in our country and the moral bearings of the Ten Commandments were abandoned in American

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society, our culture became more and more decadent. As godly influence waned, moral restraint was cast off and lost souls drifted further and further away from God and His original design of a father and child relationship.

The restoration of a lost soul can only commence with a new birth. Nothing but a rebirth into God's family can restore the father/child relationship that was forfeited in the fall. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:6-7). The new birth of scores of lost souls is the one and only hope of initiating the restoration of the eroded foundations of our once godly nation. Nothing but a sweeping spiritual awakening is capable of birthing the recovery America really needs.

The revolt that initiated the fall of the human race is the same rebellion manifesting in the moral and spiritual collapse of American society. The indisputable evidence of fallen humanity's attempt to abolish fatherhood is blatant in our vile and pornographic culture. We bemoan the plight of a fatherless generation as nearly half of American children grow up without a father in their homes. Fatherless children are the tragic victims of the plague of divorce that has sickened our society.

Even more appalling are the multitudes born to selfish men who make only one contribution into the life of their child. In a moment of passion they deposit their sperm. As they withdraw and get up from the woman they impregnate, they forever withdraw from the new life their unlawful union created. This is the unraveling of God's design for fatherhood to its final frayed strand.

Still, there is one greater abomination. When the abortionist cuts the life-giving cord of an unborn baby that final frayed strand is severed. God's greatest gift is murdered and fatherhood is abolished. Man's rebellion is absolute, and his wickedness has no restraint. The apostle Paul describes the sordid moral collapse that ensues.

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For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.
(Rom. 1:26-31)

When fatherhood is abolished, souls plummet into chaos and society soon follows. There is no political action capable of slowing the descent. No platitudes of philosophical discourse can lift humanity out of a malignant culture that perpetuates godlessness. Politically-correct speech offers no cure. It feeds the cancer by celebrating the descent into depravity. There is no hope of change in the political arena. Politics are powerless to rescue lost souls ensnared in a rebellion against God. The recovery America needs will never come through the White House. No president has the executive power capable of halting the death spiral of a godless nation! That power is reserved for the praying saints in God's house.

Attempting to reverse the downward trajectory of a nation by winning the national debate is futile when the nation itself and multitudes in it are already lost! The real battle raging in our country is not between conservative morality, liberal ideology or libertarian license. Only the light of the gospel can overcome the gross spiritual darkness that holds multitudes of American citizens captive. Moral sanity will never be restored in America through a political movement, national dialogue or a cultural renaissance. America's only hope to avoid judgment is a spiritual awakening.

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Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

(Isa. 60:1-3)

Although the wickedness of mankind knows no bounds, the grace of God has no limitations. God is not willing that any should perish.³⁶ Let us join together to seek God for the multitudes in our country who are lost and adrift without God. Then let us be the vessels of the Father's love by dedicating our lives and our resources to gather the outcasts, rescue the forsaken, and care for the weak. As we walk in the love of God, the fatherless will discover the love of a Father they never had but always hoped they would someday find.

Multitudes of natural fathers in this generation deserted their children. But God sent His only Son to die for the fatherless so they could be reborn into the family of God. Jesus became sin and was rejected of His Father so the lost and the fatherless could find acceptance from a Father who will never leave them or forsake them. It is the Father's love that saves, heals, and restores.

The godly souls who lament America's spiritual and moral collapse need to turn their eyes and their hearts outward toward the fatherless masses that so desperately need our heavenly Father's love. God has entrusted the eternal souls of this fatherless generation to His church! Jesus is their only hope. We have been commissioned and empowered to proclaim His good news to the hopeless. The love of God is the pure love of fatherhood. "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families" (Ps. 68:5-6).

As the essence of the fall was the rejection of the fatherhood of God, the initiation of every spiritual recovery, even our nation's recovery, must begin with the restoration of the fatherhood of God. The search of this generation for the love of a father will never cease unless they find

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our Father's love reaching out to them through us. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. God forbid that we live our lives in the spiritual mediocrity that seeks anything less than the eternal souls of fatherless humanity. Nothing but the father's love can rescue and restore a lost soul. Nothing but the spiritual rebirth of fatherless multitudes will ever initiate the spiritual restoration of America!