

A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

PS BENAIAH

We serve a loving Heavenly Father. He cares for us, provides for us, & pours out His presence in our lives. Psalm 68:5 tells us that He's a "Father of the fatherless & protector of widows is God in his holy habitation."

Today, there are generations called the "Millennial generation" (born between 1981 and 1996) and "Generation Z" (born between 1997 and 2012). These generations have the highest rates of fatherlessness in modern history. There's even less present fathers today than after the great world wars (WW1, WW2). Data from the U.S. Census Bureau in the United States says that around 19.7 million children, or approximately 1 in 4, live in father-absent homes. Australian statistics are similar. What a tragedy!

READ:

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 (NIV and MSG)

We see here that the apostle Paul is addressing the separate need for spiritual fathers in the church, even comparing the rarity of spiritual parents to 10000 to a 1!

One of the primary roles of fathers is to instil a child's identity. A fatherless generation means that we have a generation who lacks identity. The church has a powerful opportunity and responsibility to help encourage this generation in their God given identity.

QUESTIONS:

Who has been a spiritual father / mother to you?

Why are you thankful for them?

What are some ways that we can be spiritual parents to others?

As Celebration Church, let's be passionate about being spiritual parents, and passionate about raising up spiritual parents in the generations to come. This is the heart of the Father.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Thank the Father for His goodness. Ask the Father to help us express His heart to others. Ask that we would be a church full of spiritual fathers and mothers.