

The Perfect Father Ephesians 5:1-2

**Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN**

1. Today, fatherhood is in real danger in our churches, in our American homes, and in American society.
 - a. Far too many men have become detached, distant and passive in the two most important areas of their life — the home and Church.
 - b. What are the effects? By no means am I saying that if there is not a father in your home today all bad things will happen.
2. Now, if you're like most men - even those who had a poor or harmful experience with their own fathers - you have an idea of the kind of father you want to be.
 - a. We all need a model on how to conduct ourselves in the home. I'm sure all of us would have loved to have the perfect father and to be a perfect father.
3. Let's go right to the source and look at the original perfect Father - God Himself. I want to go to one of the most favorite parables of Jesus to illustrate how God is the perfect Father. **(Luke 15: 11-24)**
 - I. God Is A Father Who Loves His Children. **(Luke 15: 11)**
 - A Jesus tells the parable about the normal occurrence of life. A man had two sons whom he loved.
 - B Many passages of scriptures throughout the Bible speak of God's love for His children.
 1. "We love because he first loved us." **(1 John 4:19)**
 2. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **(Rom 5:8)**
 - C We want our children to know that we accept and love them.
 - II. God Is A Father Who Allows Freedom. **(Luke 15: 12)**
 - A What would be your reaction if one of your children would come to you, thumbing their nose at you, demanding total freedom and his fair share to finance his rebellion?
 - B God made us as individuals and created us to make choices for ourselves.
 - C This father also did not stand in the way of the consequences. **(Luke 15: 14-15)**
 - III. God Is A Father Who Welcomes His Children Home. **(Luke 15: 20-24)**
 - A Notice how this father receives his son home.
 - B Notice how this father treats his son after he comes home.
 - C This story of a perfect father is our story.