

A CREED FOR FATHERHOOD

INTRODUCTION

As a father, I will love my children no matter the circumstance. I will balance my toughness with my compassion. I will delight in them, creating a fun and happy home. I will be pure in heart and deed, and remain loyal to them. I will lead them as I teach, counsel, and pastor them about God and His gospel. I will actually be there, in their lives, and remain available to them emotionally and practically. I pledge to provide for their needs and protect them from the dangers in a fallen world. This I will do diligently and with humility, seeking an honest, transparent, and forgiving attitude with my children.

DISCUSSION

What organizations have you been a part of that had an official creed?
Can you still recite it?

EXPLANATION

A *creed* is simply those things that we absolutely don't want to forget - If you were to make a list of 10 Essentials in your life, what would they be?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

How does Paul use his creed to communicate?

Explain Rebuke and Repentance.

In what areas do you need be rebuked or to repent?

APPLICATION

Why is this list called *Essentials*?

What Essentials do you need to work on?

Who can you seek out to help you be better with those essentials than you are?

If you are single, how does this credo, these essentials, speak to you?

MEN & BOYS: MEMORIZE THIS CREDO! - TAKE IT HEART. It must become essential.

MISSION

How would the church be viewed by culture if men to their duty of fatherhood as essential, and lived by such a credo?

How could your Community Group reach out to those who are fatherless in our city, by living this creed, and ultimately showing them who Christ is?

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Deuteronomy 11:18-19

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Psalm 119:11

Psalm 103:13

Ephesians 6:4

Joshua 1:9

Philippians 4:8

Proverbs 10:9

Proverbs 21:25

1 Timothy 5:8

Luke 18:15-16

Psalm 32:7

Joshua 4:13

Proverbs 23:24

Proverbs 5:15-17

Psalm 119:11

James 5:16

Proverbs 3:11-12

Proverbs 23:13-14

Proverbs 22:6



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Deuteronomy 11:18-19 “*You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*”

Creeds like the Boy Scout Law, US Army Ranger Creed, Rifleman’s Creed of the USMC etc. serve many purposes and for some it’s a tool in training, to mold and shape young men and women into the desired outcome.

Creeds are theology for the boots on the ground, for regular people. They are a collection of important ideals, for practical use. **They are those things that we absolutely don’t want to forget.** For camping and backpacking, the 10 Essentials list includes: Map, Compass, Headlamp/flashlight, First aid kit, Fire starter, Knife.

Creeds have been written on and off from the beginning of the Church:

- Apostle’s Creed
- Nicene Creed
- The Heidelberg Catechism
- Martin Luther’s 95 Theses

Today we will write a creed for fatherhood. We cannot really understand the creed, without agreeing to the underlying principles that make up the creed by looking at 15 essentials to fatherhood.

Rebuke & Repent

Reality is where we need to live, and we do that through Rebuke & Repentance. As men, we need to step up and accept rebuke, and when we do, we will then be ready to repent. Rebuke is confrontation - You let someone else tell you where you’re in sin, where you’re wrong. Repentance is turing away from the nasty path you are on - you run the other way, towards a loving and forgiving God

THE 15 ESSENTIALS TO FATHERHOOD:

1. Loving
Unconditionally. Patient. Compassionate.
2. Balance
Fair Disciplinarian. Sets good boundaries.

3. Toughness*
Strong. Physical Health. Endurance.
4. Purity*
Honesty. Strong Integrity.
5. Present
Do not abandon your children.
6. Diligence*
Strong Work Ethic.
7. Availability*
Good listener.
8. Protection & Provision
At all costs! Be like a medieval knight.
9. Counselor
Be supportive of your kids. Build them up, Gently steer your kids toward good decisions, Leads kids towards wisdom
10. Loyalty
11. Teacher*
Moral Example. Teach them to do right. You instruct also in the practical
12. Humility
Admit mistakes. Ask for forgiveness.
13. Leadership
Be a motivator, a challenger. Disciplinarian
14. Plays
*Enjoys life. Delight in your children. Has fun with all the family!
Plan vacations together.*
15. Pastor
*Shepherd kids towards Christ. Your home is your mini-church.
Lead your children, your family, in a lifestyle of worship.*

FATHERHOOD CREED:

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