

AIM (Father's Day message) 2 Corinthians 5:1-9

What is your aim? More specifically where is your heart? The Bible says to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, but it starts with the heart. Who has your heart, your business, your bank account, or maybe your acquisitions? If we're born again, then we know that all this is temporary. Don't we? We ought to. Paul is of a conviction when he writes to the church; "we know..." So if we know, why do we act as though this is everything? Our faith is not in what we see, but in what we don't see. Does Jesus have your heart? As a father, as a believer you have a ministry and you have authority but only if you acknowledge Jesus' authority which comes not only because he ascended, but because He first descended and took back that keys to death and hell from Satan; Jesus conquered death and the grave and has authority over them. It's not about religion, it's about relationship, and you don't can't have a relationship with a dead person, so you have to acknowledge that Jesus is risen from the dead. If we have that relationship then we have authority and a ministry (**Mark 16:14-20**). Your authority is not based on your position as a parent, as a father like the old taunt, "I'm the king of the castle and you're the dirty rascal." That is not the stand we take as born again believers. When we reach the end of our ability to serve our family, we go to the source, the Holy Spirit, to be empowered to go on.

God's last prophetic word to the ancients was on the subject of father's and children (**Malachi 4:6**). When He broke His silence just prior to the birth of Jesus and John the Baptist, he reminded the people of his word, (**Luke 1:13-17**). We were reminded last week of our mission statement to care, share, and prepare. Father's are given the divine role of influence. If God is going to do a work, He will always start with a man. Even the birth of Jesus was begun with John as a forerunner. Father's are given the role of influence, they are to transmit and reflect the image of God onto their children. Born again fathers have the responsibility to be godly influences; and it's not in the words they speak but in the life they live. **Deut. 5:8-10,16**. Dad, the importance of influence is that it will go from generation to generation, from you to your kids to your grandkids. If you are a dad and have, say, an anger problem, chances are you father had the same thing. The iniquity, the bent, the sin is visited on the children to the third and fourth generation. Do you want your kids and grandkids to be about the importance of assembling together with God's people? They won't if they don't see it in you first. If you want to influence the next generation you've got to aim for it. You have to operate as a godly man. It's not about opening your wallet and stuff like that because that is all earthly, it's all temporary. What about the things that are eternal? A negative influence will go on for generations unless we stop it. Some women live in fear of having a husband who will turn out to be like her father because he was not a good influence. As born again believers we can keep at bay the generational curses because we love God and want to keep His commandments. So what comes our way is the mercy of God, the curses stop here. Make it your aim, dads, to please God. We are to walk by faith, we are to have confidence. As born again fathers do your kids have your heart? As born again sons and daughters, has your heart been turned back to your father? Not only your heavenly Father but your earthly father as well? Walk by faith not fear. If you want to love the Lord your God with all of you, you need to ask this question at the end of each day, "God are you pleased with the way I conducted myself today, the way I treated my

children, my parents, my spouse?" Fathers, do your children have your heart? Does your wife have your heart? The only way they can truly have your heart is if you first give it to Jesus. Is there something that is taking priority in your heart over Him, something you need to relinquish? Make it your aim to be well pleasing to the Lord.