

# Father Absence

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## Is it Real?

There is a common term going around. The term is 'fatherlessness'. Is there really any such thing as fatherlessness? Has any child every been fatherless? Is it real?

## Is it Common?

Did you know that father absence is the single most common, defining characteristic of family structures in the world today? Family structures worldwide share no other word more often than the word, 'father absent'.

For a long time, life ministries have predominantly served women. Is that by design? While women are often alone in the pregnancy, they were not alone during the conception. Both father and mother are equally, undeniably and irrevocably parents. Too often, women are the only parents showing up. The consistently missing piece is fathers.

Father absence does not 'just happen'. Three quarters of pregnancy resource center clients grew up in father absent environments. A similar proportion of those clients take their own newborn children home to father absent environments. Father absence breeds father absence. This cycle is virtually guaranteed to perpetuate itself indefinitely unless something substantial changes.

For the first time in human history enduring, nuclear family structures are no longer predominant. The scales have tipped. Children who haven't experienced enduring, nuclear family structures have grown up and comprise the majority of individuals who are procreating. Procreation remains steady. Since the 1980's fertility rates have remained relatively the same while single parenting, which almost always means 'father absence', continues to exponentially increase. We are still ensuring the survival of the human species; we're just doing so outside the bonds of family.

## God Knows

God saw this coming. God knew mankind would eventually unravel at the seams, where the fabric of our very existence is woven by the joining of one person to another. God knew our enemy would seek to divide us; then conquer. The enemy has divided us at our center, our families. God made it clear from the beginning that this union between men and women and the gift of procreation was to be revered. However, He knew we would self-destruct from the inside out.

The Good News is that God cares. Long before people realized father absence was a critical problem, God, in His mercy, prophetically prescribed the exact intervention we need today.

Malachi 4:5-6 (KJV) says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Father absence didn't just happen. Over time, single acts became generations of habits.

## Our Place

In the latter days, there is a place for us in a deliberate act of God to inspire something of miraculous proportion. God is inspiring the turning of fathers' hearts back to their families. As He always has, God allows us a place in His miraculous work. We bid you, 'Come, join us in this great adventure.'

### *Birth of a Family*

#### *Completing family circles with fathers*