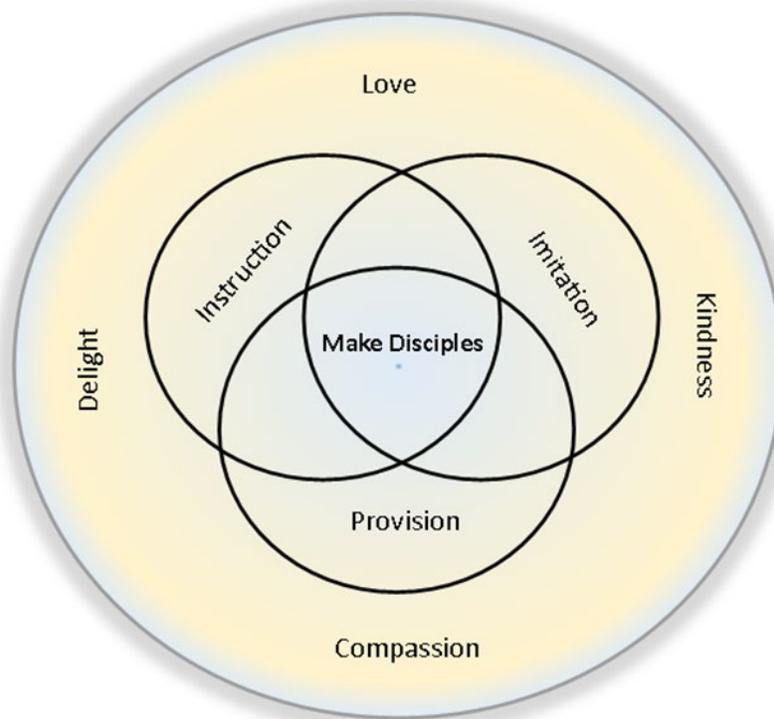


Manhood: The Role of the Father - Handout



Goal

I believe the main goal of being a father is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. When we realize that's what we are aiming for, it will reshape how we do everything.

Our fatherhood is sourced in the Fatherhood of God. So, the goal is that our children, grandchildren, and so on, will be godly, righteous, and just, knowing the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love Jesus Christ our Lord, filled with all the fullness of God. In short, the goal of fatherhood is that our children would know *the* Father, in Christ Jesus, through the Holy Spirit.

Conditions

1. Love
2. Delight (a high degree of gratification or pleasure: joy)
3. Kindness
4. Compassion (sympathetic consciousness of others' distresses together with a desire to alleviate them)

Orientations

I believe a father has three primary orientations:

Instruction	Discipline
	Teaching
	Practical Training
	Wisdom
Imitation	Integrity
	Modeling
	Private Worship
	Public Worship
Provision	Providing for material needs
	Protection of home and honor
	Family order and peace
	Inheritance

Questions

1. Has your main goal as a father been to make disciples of Jesus Christ? If so, where have you been failing to live up to your ideal? If not, how will this change your parenting?
2. Is your fatherhood, natural or spiritual, marked by the four conditions for healthy growth, which are love, delight, kindness, and compassion? Which of these four is the biggest struggle for you? Why do you think that is?
3. How are you doing with orienting your fatherhood towards instruction, imitation, and provision? Which orientation stuck out the most to you as a need for improvement? Where do you think you are doing well?
4. List 2-3 men in your life that you think could help you in your role as a father. Or, if you have already raised a family, list 2-3 men you think you could help in their role as fathers. I encourage you to reach out to these men this week.