



What the father's role is in a Christian home is exactly what our Heavenly Father is. He's present. A father oftentimes believes that they need to be corrective. Sometimes the father feels they need to be overbearing. Oftentimes, I've made those mistakes. A father is just like our Heavenly Father, always there. The perfect picture we see of this is the prodigal son. The prodigal son's father, I believe, was the picture of a perfect father. The prodigal son wanted to leave and essentially say to his dad that, "I wish you would die, and I want my money early." And what did the prodigal son's father do? The prodigal son's father did not rush, did not push, nor pull. He didn't hold back resources, nor did he give guilt to his son. He let his son go. And I believe that this is the perfect example of a good father. A good father knows how to discern when they've been so good that even when they let go, that child could never let go of the goodness, the mercy, the compassion of a present father. And we know that the Bible teaches that God created the circumstances. And I believe a good Christian father understands that God is sovereign and creates the right circumstances for every child to come to themselves. And that's exactly what happened with the prodigal son. He came to himself. A loving father in a Christian home understands that it's up to the Holy Spirit to convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment. That it's not a dad's job to try to be the Holy Spirit, but they must believe that the seeds they've sown in that child will produce a harvest that will lead to righteousness. This is what it means to be a good father. The Role of a Father in a Christian Home A good father, just like the prodigal son's dad, was waiting, anticipating, looking, and watching, waiting for his son to come back home. So the Bible makes it very clear that from a great way off, he saw his son. The Bible says that the prodigal son's father broke all religious protocols and paradigms according to the

culture and climate of that day. It was not supposed to be that a male Jew would dare lift up his skirt, dare lift up his overlining tunic in order to be able to run. It would have been breaking all types of religious protocol for him not only to run, but to embrace a smelly child who was rebellious, smelling like swine, smelling like a curse. But a good father in a Christian home understands that sometimes your children will smell like mess, but yet you have to embrace them for a miracle. That sometimes your children may smell like the very rebellion of sin, but a good father understands that the covering of a dad is greater than the sin that a child could ever commit. And so it is, the Bible teaches, and it gives us a great microcosm of the character of a Christian home as it relates to a father being there. He gives the son who was rebellious, who was smelly, but yet repenting, a ring, sandals, and a robe. And he kissed him on the cheek and then threw that son a party. And when the older brother came trying to condemn and judge his brother, what did the father say? The father said, "Your brother was once lost, but now he's found. He was once blind, but now he sees." And this is exactly what it means to be the father that God is calling us to be in a Christian home. A dad that understands that even when our children run astray, maybe not physically from a home, but emotionally, maybe they run astray in rebellion, not fulfilling our wishes and our dreams, we know that our prayer is greater than rebellion. That they'll come back home as long as we anticipate, wait, and know how to act when they get there. Never saying to them, "Where have you been?" but always saying, "I'm glad that you're here." God bless you this Father's Day.

