

steps, and how they shared with them in both happy and painful growing-up experiences. But when children choose a sinful lifestyle, even good parents, after repeated pleas and warnings, may have no choice but to let them go their own way. Parents will do so with broken hearts and with the undying hope that their prodigal will one day return.

In Hosea 11, God is portrayed as Israel's Father. Because the nation had disobeyed, He had pleaded with them and chastened them time and time again. Yet they refused to change their ways. Finally, God withdrew from them and let them learn the hard way. Yet even then, He could not and would not completely abandon them. One day He will draw them back to Himself (Romans 11:26-27).

God loves His children today with that same kind of tough love. What a wonderful heavenly Father! —HVL

*At times we spurn our Father's love
And choose a sinful path;
Yet He will not abandon us,
Though righteous in His wrath. —D. De Haan*

God loves us not because of who we are, but because of who He is.

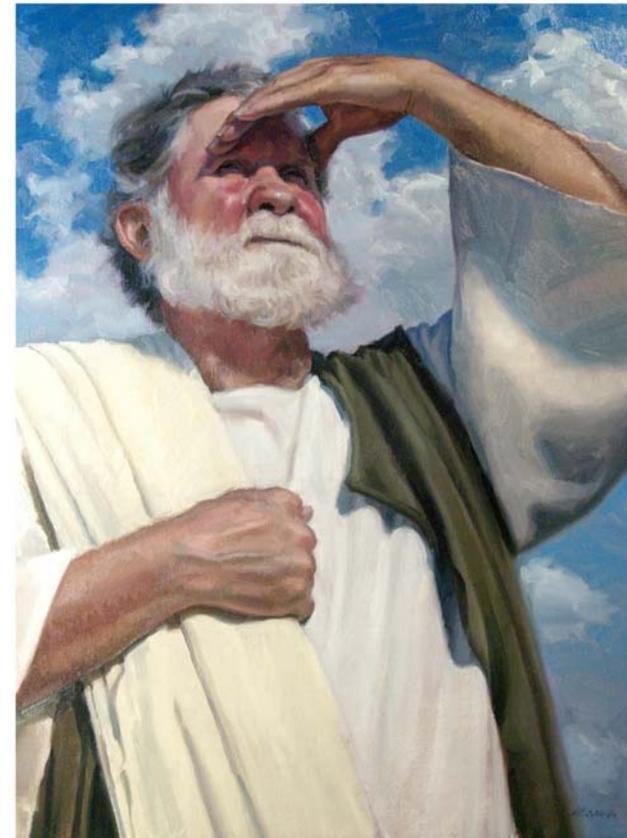


Central Mountains Baptist Church

OCTOBER 18, 2015

Our Heavenly Father

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. —Psalm 103:13



In a moment of exasperation, a father told me that if his son continued in his rebellious ways he was going to disinherit him and try to forget him. But I knew that father well. Although he was angry, hurt, and disappointed, I was sure he would never quit loving his son and longing for his conversion.

Good parents cannot forget how they cared for their children as infants, how they helped them take their first



Our Home

Reaching the Rebel

The Kind of Parent God Uses II



We can mention three further characteristics of the parent that God uses:

1. A _____ parent, Revelation 3:14



2. An _____ parent, verses 15-17

3. An _____ parent, verses 17-22

◆ Seeking _____, verses 17-19

(1 Samuel 15:23) "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. ..."

◆ Seeking _____, verses 19-22

