Care of the Fatherless
James 1:27

- Deuteronomy 10:18
- Deuteronomy 16:14
- Deuteronomy 24:17-22
- Psalm 68:8
- James 1:27

The number of children worldwide without families to love and care for them is overwhelming.
- There are more than 700,000 orphans living in the Russian orphanages.
  - 30% of Russian orphan graduates turn to crime (boys join the mafia, girls become prostitutes).
  - 60% end up jobless and homeless.
  - 10% take their own lives.
- 100,000 children live in the Romanian orphanages.
- Upwards of 1.5 million orphans are in Eastern Europe.
- There are 5.5 million simple orphans (orphaned due to accidental death or abandonment) in Africa.
- Today, 13 million children are orphaned because of AIDS in Africa.
- 40 million AIDS orphans will be living in Africa by the year 2010.
- 3.5 million orphans in Asia.
- Estimates say 1 million little girls have been abandoned and live in Chinese orphanages.
- 400,000 orphans in Latin America.
- 135,000 children available for adoption in the U.S. foster care system.

These figures don’t even consider the millions of children whose fathers have left them and are raised by single mothers!

It’s easy to forget that each and every one of these orphaned children is precious to the Savior. The above passages in scripture show God’s heart toward the poor, the stranger in a strange land, the fatherless, and the widow. God reminds the Israelites that they too were once strangers in the land of Egypt, and that they were there treated cruelly, not given much to eat, and suffered much (for a period of 400 years!). However, God delivered the nation of Israel out of Egypt through Moses (read about it in the book of Exodus.)

Now that they were free, God wanted them still to remember the poor, needy, and the fatherless in their midst. God specifically told them to not gather in all of the harvest from the fields. Why? Because the poor, who had no harvest fields of their own, or the widow, who had no husband to provide for the home, or the fatherless, who had no dad to bring them home food, could go into the fields themselves and gather food for free. God NEVER wants people to go hungry. God NEVER wants the poor to not be cared for. God ALWAYS is concerned for the family, and when the family is without a father, God wants the wife and the children to be cared for. For those that are kind and tenderhearted towards the poor, God will bless them too. This is how blessings work. One man blesses another man, then, because the man showed kindness to another, God blesses him. Everyone gets a blessing, and God is honored and people are taken care of.

God know the cries of the oppressed
- Deuteronomy 24:14-15
God know that the poor and fatherless can be oppressed because of their low station in life.
- Deuteronomy 24:17

God wants fairness!
- Psalm 146:8

Christianity is not memorizing the Bible, building churches, singing songs, going to church every Sunday, picnics, potlucks, or prayer meetings. All this has its place, but the core, the pure religion is showing God's concern to the fatherless and to the widow, and living a holy life before God, or, knowing Jesus personally and doing His will.
- James 1:27

God cares for the fatherless. He has commanded His people to care for them. He is sensitive to their needs. God Himself, sometimes directly and sometimes through His people, will take care of the fatherless.
- Psalms 27:9

God put priority on the kind of caring that benefits the needy. To practice concern and care for the fatherless and widows is to be in touch with the heart of the heavenly Father. He is both Helper and Father to the fatherless.
- Psalm 10:14, 18
- Psalm 68:5

He is the defender and sustainer of the fatherless and widow.
- Psalm 82:3
- Psalm 146:9
- Isaiah 1:17, 23

He has compassion for them.
- Hosea 14:3

He has entrusted and looking after them to His people.
- James 1:27

The New Testament defines those who are really in need and deserving of support by the body of Christ.
- 1 Timothy 5:4-10

How very sad if ritual performances, programs, buildings, are more important to us than what is on the heart of God!
- Hosea 6:6
- Isaiah 29:13
- Matthew 15:7-9

What can you do?
- **Foster care:** You can provide a foster home for a child. You can let a child receive one-on-one care until being adopted.
- **Sponsorship:** Sponsor a child and give that child a chance to go to school and receive medical care.
• **Nutrition drive:** Donate bottles of vitamins and ship them to orphanages.
• **Playground:** Help build a playground to give children a place to play and grow.
• **Sponsor a child for adoption:** Help a special child with needs to have a better chance to be adopted by donating to the families willing but financially unable to adopt.
• **Medical project:** Give to help a child receive reconstructive surgery.
• **Orphanage needs:** Help an orphanage get the food and equipment they need.
• **Sponsor wells:** Give the gift of clean, healthy water. Donate a community well. The cost is usually around $450.
• **Medical vision clinic in India:** “1000 eyes are waiting for this to be completed”
• **Pay for a teacher:** In a third world school such as in India, the cost can be as low as $32 a month!
• **Pay for the care and feeding of the children in leper colonies:** These children are doubly ostracized.
• **Adopt a child:** You may doubt whether or not your money is being well spent in these projects. You may wonder if they are truly trying to not only provide for the children physically, but also to lead them to the Lord. So, why not take the leap and make a commitment to the life of a child? Raise him or her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord yourself.

**International Adoption Agency websites:**
• Bethany’s Waiting Children  
• Dillon’s Waiting Children  
• Cradle of Hope  
• Rainbow Kids  
• Buckner International Adoption  
• Children’s Home Society and family Services Waiting Children

**United Stated Adoption Agency websites:**
• NAIC  
• Wednesday’s Child  
• Northwest Adoption Exchange  
• The Adoption Exchange  
• Adopt America Network  
• AdoptUSKids

**Various Biblical References to the Fatherless:**