

A PERFECT HEAVENLY FATHER

(Matthew 7:7-11)

⁷ “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰ Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

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... how much more will your Heavenly Father ...

Jewish Hermeneutics
Qal va-Homer
(light and heavy)



if this is true ... then ...

*how much more
can you rely on
this truth*

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If ...

imperfect parents know
how to



Then ...

how much more will
your Heavenly Father



... give good gifts to those who ask ...

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Fatherless Children in the USA Some Shocking Statistics

Times More Likely	Outcome
8	Go to prison
5	Commit suicide
20	Become rapists
10	Abuse chemical substances
1/10	Get "A"s in school
20	Behavioural problems
72% lower	Standard of living

Source: [Stibbe, M., *I am your Father*, \(Oxford: Monarch Books, 2010\), p24](#)

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Fatherless Children in the UK

Some Shocking Statistics

% More Likely	Outcome
75%	Fail at Schools
70%	Become drug addicts
50%	Develop alcohol problem
40%	Serious debts problems
35%	Experience unemployment

Source: *Stibbe, M., I am your Father, (Oxford: Monarch Books, 2010), p26*

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Absent Father

But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love. You did not abandon them

(Nehemiah 9:17)

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Apathetic Father

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you
with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

(Zephaniah 3:17)

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Addicted Father

There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle.

(James 1:17)

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Achievement Driven Father

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(Romans 5:6-8)

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Authoritarian Father

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives
God is treating you as sons.

(Hebrews 12:6-7)

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Abdicating Father

Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.

(Joshua 21:45)

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**Abusive
Father**

The Lord! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy!
Slow to anger and filled with unfailing love & faithfulness;
lavishing unfailing love to a thousand generations;
forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

(Exodus 34:6-7)

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Impact of father deprivation



girls

unsure of self-worth

doubt attractiveness

driven to super-achieve

seek dad's affection in men

form toxic relations with men



boys

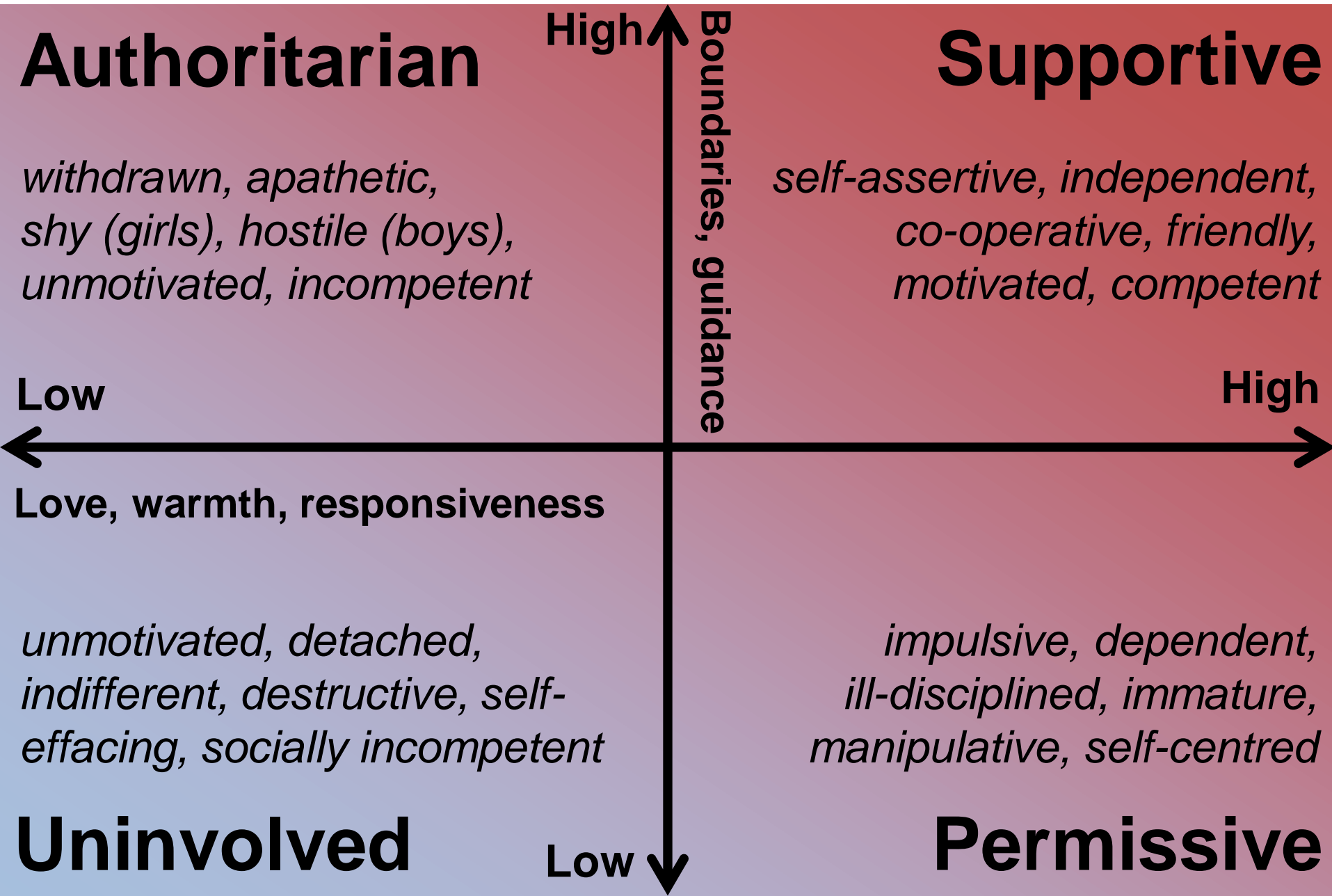
gender confusion

vow not to be masculine

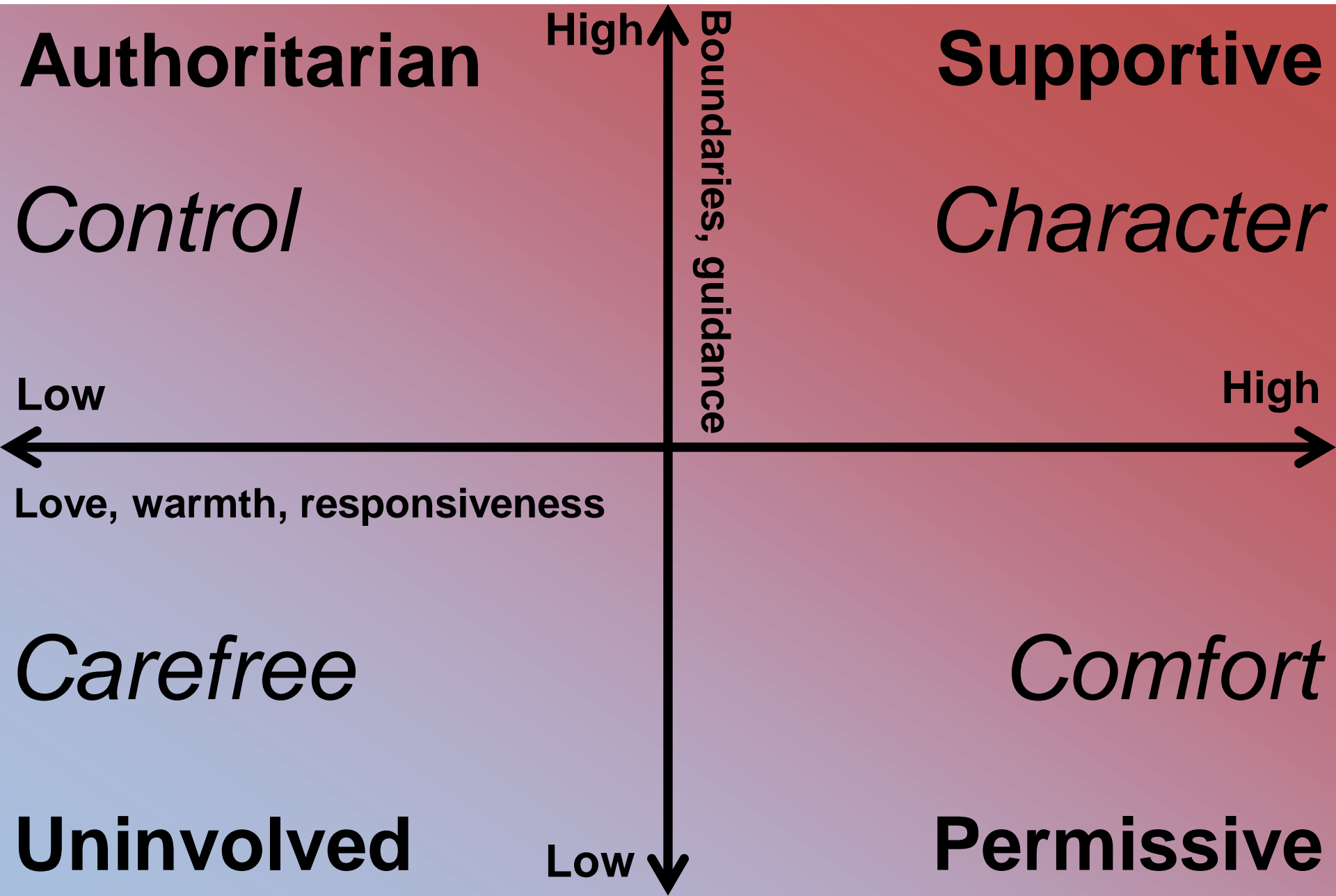
seek dad's hug in toxic ways:
work, position, money, fame

violence, gangs, tribalism

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Cultivating Character

God is **far more** committed to developing our character than making us comfortable. His goal is not to pamper us physically but to perfect us **spiritually.**

(Robert Flatt)

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**poor in
spirit**
(Matt. 5:3)



**who
mourn**
(Matt. 5:4)



**the
meek**
(Matt. 5:5)



**hunger
& thirst**
(Matt. 5:6)



**show
mercy**
(Matt. 5:7)



**pure in
heart**
(Matt. 5:8)



**peace-
makers**
(Matt. 5:9)



persecuted
(Matt. 5:10)

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Do not banish me
from your presence.
Don't take your Holy
Spirit from me.

(Psalm 51:11)



And I will ask the
Father, and he will
give you another
Advocate, who will
never leave you.

He is the Holy
Spirit, who leads
into all truth. No, I
will not abandon
you as orphans ...

(John 14:16-18)

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So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask him.”

(Luke 11:13)



**be asking
and you will
receive**

**be seeking
and you will
find**

**be knocking
and doors will
be opened**

(Matthew 7:7-8)