

FATHER'S DAY 2023

Good morning to everyone and **Happy Father's Day** to all our Father's here!

Hope your day is blessed as a father and remember there has never been a time ***where the father's role has ever been more critical*** to the wellbeing of everything!

As a father, I'm excited to wish you a Happy Father's day on your special day!

Mothers and kids make sure **Daddy knows** you love him, cherish him, value him, respect him, and yes, you are following him.

Well, that will put a little pressure on him to ***lead you in the right way***, right?

Happy Father's Day, today I won't to speak about, **Our Dads are a big deal!!!**

Story – The Father was correcting his son one day.

The son had gone way out from the house to the Out-House and absolutely hated the Out-House. ***The Out-house stood on the edge of a creek!*** He got so frustrated having to go there that one day he pushed the Out-house over ***into the creek.***

The father came to him the next day and said, ***“Son, Did you push the Out-House into the creek?”***

The son said, ***“Yes Dad I did it!”***

The Father took off his belt to do a little correcting, but **the son complained**, he said **DAD**, ***“George Washington told his dad the truth about chopping down the cherry tree!”***

That's when the father said, ***“Yes but George Washingtons father was not in the tree!!!”*** You get the point; **Daddy was in the Out-house** when it got pushed over.

The young man had made a bad decision because he didn't understand all the ramifications of his Choice.

- We live in a day when choices have to be made.
- We live in a day with a fork in the road.
- When you look all around us, all the chaos and confusion, the lack of clarity and voices coming at us from all different directions.
- **It is time for men to make a choice.**
- The reality **God is waiting on men** to make a choice.

Our Dads are a Big Deal... - 1 Corinthians 11:3 – ³ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.

Fathers sometimes get a bad rap. - Churches sometimes spend Mother's Day bragging on Mom and Father's Day beating up on Dad.

One small boy said, "Father's Day is just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much on the gift." May I speak for fathers everywhere when I say, **"What gift?"**

Mark Twain said, "When I was a boy of 14 my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to 21, I was astonished at how much the old man learned in 7 years."

There are sayings we associate with our dads. The top ten Dad quotes from the article - - - **"The World According To Fathers"** ...

1. What part of **"no"** don't you understand?
2. This is going to **hurt me** more than it hurts you.
3. Why? Because **I said so!**
4. I wasn't asleep; I was just **resting my eyes**.
5. Shut the door; were you **born in a barn?**
6. A little **dirt never hurt** anyone.
7. As long as you **live under my roof**, you'll live by my rules.
8. I'm not **made out of money**.
9. Don't make me **stop this car!**
10. Ask your **mother**.

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Jewish tradition insists that fatherhood is not necessarily biological.

- The one who **raises a child** is considered the true parent.

Teachers are like fathers, Where the father is only a biological relationship

**It is the teacher who provides what a father should provide:
guidance, values, discipline, direction and love.**

In the first century, families were presided over by fathers who could do whatever they pleased in their homes.

- Rome had a law called **“the father’s power.”**
- Men who were Roman citizens were given absolute rights over their families.

By law- - -

- The children and the wife
- **Were regarded as the patriarch’s personal property.**
- And he could do with them what he wished.

A displeased father could

- Disown his children - - -
- Sell them into slavery - - -
- Or even kill them if he wished.

When a child was born, the baby was placed between the father’s feet.

- If the father **picked up the baby**, the child stayed in the home.
- If he turned and walked away - - -
- The child was either left to die or sold at auction.

Seneca, a contemporary of the apostle Paul, described Roman policy with regard to unwanted animals:

“We slaughter a fierce ox; we strangle a mad dog; we plunge a knife into a sick cow. Children born weak or deformed we drown.”

Things are not much better today, are they?

Millions of unwanted babies are aborted each year.

Children have become a disposable commodity in our society, just as they were in Rome!

But the Bible calls Christian fathers to a different standard!

Our kids **are not** property to own

- But ***image bearers of God*** who need to be trained.

Dads, we are called to - - Provide a proper nurturing environment - Where our kids can grow up ***to love and serve the Lord!!!!!!***

The New Testament challenges us to see the word “father” as a verb not just a noun.

- A verb is a word that expresses an action or a state of being.

Fathers need to take action!!!!

- A noun is a word used to name a person, animal, place, thing, and abstract idea. **Fathers are more than a name!!!!!!**

It's biologically easy to become a father - - - But biblically challenging to actually “father” our children.

The Bible very clearly challenges dads - - -

- To be **the spiritual leader** in their homes - - -
- The ultimate responsibility for what a family becomes - - -
- **Belongs to the father!!!!!!**

The primary part of that responsibility is striking a balance between LOVE and DISCIPLINE.

Hebrews 12:7 – NIV

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

Who loves his child more, the one who corrects or the one that allows wrong?

God corrects and disciplines because of His deep love for us.

1 Thessalonians 2:11 - NIV

¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,

- ***No loving Father would neglect the safety of his children,***
- ***Allowing circumstances - That may be harmful or fatal!!!!!!***

Ephesians 6:4 - ⁴ **Fathers**, (or parents) **do not exasperate** your children; instead, bring them up in the ***training and instruction of the Lord.***

- We do not want to **discourage** our children - - - But raise them in a **Christ honoring manner!**

Colossians 3:21 - ²¹ Fathers, (Or parents) **do not embitter** your children, or they will become discouraged.

- **Children need firm discipline administered in love.**

In writing to the Corinthians - - -

- Paul compares his role as an apostle to the role filled by a dad.
- **No one can take the unique place of dad!**

1 Corinthians 4:15 - NIV

¹⁵ Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, **you do not have many fathers**, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

Paul was saying here that he was the founder of the church.

- Paul's tough words were **motivated by love** –
 - **Like the love a good father has for his children.**
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One of the biggest threats to the generation we are now raising - - -
Is the breakdown of the family.

Lifelong marriages **provide the foundation for social order**; everything of value rests on those underpinnings.

Historically, **when the family begins to unravel in any culture**, everything else is adversely affected.

Ephesians 6:1-4 - 6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴ **Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

Fathers Have a responsibility to Love, instruct, and discipline their children in the ways of the Lord.

Thirty years ago, we believed that poverty and racial discrimination were primarily responsible **for juvenile crime and behavioral problems.**

Now, nearly all of the evidence points to family breakup as the real culprit, and predicts a societal catastrophe if we **don't** turn this trend around!

How can you buck the trend?

By **committing your life totally to Christ** and **raising your family to do the same!**

Christian fathers - do not lie, steal, lust and covet!

- **do not serve the god of money!**

- **do not father and then abandon their children!**

- **do not cheat on their wives!**

- **don't send their kids to church, they take them!**

- **have a REAL relationship with God!!!!!!!!!!**

The greatest need of the hour is united homes where Christ is exalted!

Many of you were raised in homes where this was **NOT** the case - - -

The Bible shows us an IDEAL father – God Himself!

Matthew 7:9-11 - ⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

¹¹ If you, then, **though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more** will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

As we learn to know God better as a loving father, **we learn to ask for what is good for us, he then grants it!**

Many miss the fact that **we must 1st be born again to receive God's blessings.**

John 15:7 - ⁷ If you remain **in me** and my words remain **in you**, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

- **Apart from Christ our efforts are unfruitful.**
- **Are you receiving the nourishment and life offered by Christ?**

Galatians 4:6-7 - ⁶ *Because you are his sons*, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*”

⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but **God’s child**; and since you are his child, **God has made you also an heir.**

As God’s heirs – we learn to ask for what is good for us, he then grants it!

- *We can claim what he has provided for us –*
- *Our full identity as His children!*

The Story of Jairus – Mark 5:22-24 - Mark 5:35-42

1. **He was the father** of a young daughter.
2. His daughter **was in urgent need**, due to a severe illness.
3. **He pleaded earnestly** for her to Jesus.
4. **He exhibited great faith** on her behalf, **Mark 5:40**
5. **Jesus answered by miraculously raising the girl from the dead.**

Jairus’s crisis made him feel confused, afraid, and without hope.

- ***Jesus’ words*** to Jairus during crisis speaks to us as well,
- ***“Don’t be afraid, Just Believe.”***

In Jesus there is both Hope and Promise!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Story of the Father of a Deaf-Mute, Epileptic Son, Mark 9:17-27

1. His son was **in great need**.
2. **The father had faith** to come to Jesus and His disciples.
3. **That faith was initially disappointed** because the disciples could not do anything.
4. Even so, the father **asked for an increase of faith**, Mark 9:23-24.
5. **Jesus answered by miraculously healing the son.**

Jesus meant here that anything is possible if we believe - - -

Because nothing is too difficult for God.

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CLOSE:

Growing in faith is a constant process of daily renewing our trust in Jesus.

Fathers it is time to Appeal!!!!!!!!!!

1. **Fathers:** It is time to believe God for your family and intercede for your family.

2. **Everyone:** it is time

If you have faith, God will work in your life.

If you think you are lacking in faith, call out to the Lord anyway and ask Him to increase your faith.

We must continue to trust God because, in time, He will fulfill all His promises!