

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

FATHERS DAY 2025 – OPENING

Definition of Father - A man in relation to his natural child or children.

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, "What gift?"

Jerry Seinfeld, "You can tell what was the best year of your father's life, because they seem to freeze that clothing style and ride it out."

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."

A father's example in handling adversity, challenges, and setbacks is crucial in teaching children resilience and perseverance.

When a father faces difficulties with courage, determination, and a reliance on God's strength, his children will learn to approach their own challenges with the same mindset.

This will help them develop resilience and perseverance, qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives.

I recently came across a quote by Charles Spurgeon that I think really speaks to our topic today: *"Train up a child in the way he should go — but be sure you go that way yourself."* It's not just about teaching our children, but also about living out what we teach them.

Proverbs 23:24: "The father of a righteous son will rejoice greatly, and one who fathers a wise son will delight in him." Psalm 103:13: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." 2 Samuel 7:14-15: "I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me."

Father's Day 2025

Psalm 103 teaches us about the Lord's character, emphasizing His compassion, forgiveness, and love for all His people.

It encourages gratitude and reminds us to remember God's numerous benefits and blessings in our lives.

Psalm 103:13 - *As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.*

This verse highlights God's understanding and empathy towards His people, recognizing their limitations and weaknesses.

Like a father's compassion: The verse uses the analogy of a father's heart toward his children to illustrate God's compassion.

Deep and tender love: The psalm emphasizes that ***God's love for His people is not just a feeling***, but an active and compassionate love that inspires action and care.

Comfort and reassurance: The verse offers **comfort and reassurance** to those who fear God, ***reminding them that they are loved and cared for*** in a way that is both personal and powerful.

As God shows us compassion in our sufferings and joys, He builds within us the desire to share that same light of goodness with others in our lives.

The spiritual work of compassion is rooted in the ongoing drive we cultivate as Christians to connect with others in their sufferings and joys.

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Proverbs 22 ~ 24 – THIRTY SAYINGS OF THE WISE - Saying 17 – Proverbs 23:22-25
Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth and do not sell it—wisdom, instruction and insight as well. 24 The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him. 25 May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!

This calls upon parents to teach the statutes and rules diligently to their children at home, outdoors, at bedtime, and first thing in the morning.

Solomon also urges proper respect for older parents.

- *Emphasizes the importance of honoring parents and pursuing wisdom.*
- It connects the wisdom and righteousness of children with the joy of their parents.
- It suggests that parents are proud and happy when their children grow up to be wise and righteous.

Parents know how prone children are to go their own way, even when it's unwise.

Godly parenting requires patience, consistency, and love, as well as firmness and reasonable discipline.

- Love, understanding, and discipline!

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God promises King David that he will be a father to his son, and that son will be a son to God. 2 Samuel 7:14-15 - 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son.

When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

CEV - When he does wrong, I'll see that he is corrected, just as children are corrected by their parents.

This verse, part of God's promise to establish David's dynasty, suggests that even if the son (and his descendants) commit iniquity,

- God will discipline them with human means,
- But his steadfast love will not be removed as it was from Saul.
- This is a reminder that even those in God's favor can fall and need correction.

Application to Christ: While the immediate fulfillment is in Solomon, the verse is often interpreted in a **wider sense as a promise that extends to Jesus Christ**, the ultimate Son of God, who is also a descendant of David.

This outlines God's promise to respond to His people's repentance and prayer, emphasizing forgiveness, healing, and restoration.

It encourages humility, prayer, seeking God's face, and turning from wicked ways, all of which lead to God's intervention and blessing.

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Paul provides a compelling reason for why such obedience is "right" or "just."

He cites the fifth commandment: Exodus 20:12 - "Honor your father and mother" to demonstrate God's preceptive will for humanity.

In the O.T. there were many commands with a promise (Genesis 17:1–2), but this is the first and only of the Ten Commandments that contains a promise.

The promise does not refer to a section of physical land on earth; rather, it points to the inheritance of eternal life in the presence of God.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

This verse defines eternal life as the ongoing knowledge and experience of both God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ.

It highlights that eternal life is not simply a future state, but a present reality of knowing and having a relationship with God.

What does know mean in John 17 3? - The Greek term for "know" used here implies a deep level of intimacy.

- Though we are saved only by grace through faith, not by actions Eph. 2:8

Saving faith is more than intellectual agreement. James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

True faith, the kind that saves, goes beyond mere belief and involves obedience, trust, and a transformed life. What is the lesson of James 2:19?

The lesson for us: Living out the truth with our everyday choices

The Importance of Trusting in Christ:

- The verse underscores that salvation comes through trusting in Christ alone, not through works or any other means.
- Once we trust in Christ, our salvation is secured,
- But we should continue to live a life of faith and obedience,
- reflecting the transformation of our hearts.

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This addresses the dynamics within families, specifically the relationship between parents (Father's) and children.

Ephesians 6:1-4 - Children and Parents - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 **And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

- It instructs children to obey their parents "in the Lord,"
- Highlighting the importance of **respectful and obedient** behavior.
- Grounded in a commitment to God.
- *It encourages parents to avoid provoking their children to anger!*

This means providing guidance, instruction, and correction, all within a framework of love and respect for God's word.

The duty to obey our parents extends beyond outward compliance to sociocultural or familial expectations, *as it exemplifies a heart that has been consecrated to God.*

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Romans 12:1 - A Living Sacrifice - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1, a key verse in the N.T, essentially calls for believers to dedicate their entire lives to God.

It encourages them to offer their bodies, their physical existence, *as a "living sacrifice," holy and pleasing to God*.

This verse emphasizes that true worship extends beyond formal rituals and involves a consistent, dedicated lifestyle of service and reverence.

As living sacrifices, God has already set us apart for His purposes and declared us acceptable because He sees us in our position in Christ.

In other words, we do not have to wait to be better people before we offer our bodies and lives to God.

CLOSE:

What does a living sacrifice look like in the practical sense?

- The following verse (**Romans 12:2**) helps us to understand.
- We are a living sacrifice for God by not being conformed to this world.

Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 instructs believers to resist conforming to the ways of the world and instead be transformed through renewing their minds, allowing them to discern and approve God's will, which is good, pleasing, and perfect.

This transformation involves shifting from worldly thinking to one aligned with God's, enabling believers to understand and pursue His purpose.

As Father's, Mother's, as Parent's, Let's lead and show our children the way!