

Father's Day - Love and Care

Sermon June 20, 2021

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:1-13 & Hebrews 12:5-15

Golden Verse: *My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments.* (Proverbs 3:1)

Once, a father said that, to him, Mother's Day is a much bigger deal because mothers are more organized and most of the time women are in charge. Mothers say to their children: "Now, here is a list of what I want. Go get the money from your father, and you surprise me on Mother's Day. You do that for me." For Father's Day, I give each of my five kids \$20 so that they can go out and buy me a present - a total of \$100. They go to the store and buy two packages of underwear, each of which costs \$5. They tear them open, and each kid wraps up one pair, the sixth going to the Salvation Army. Therefore, on Father's Day, I am walking around with new underwear, and my kids are walking around with \$90 worth of my change in their pockets."

Once, for Mother's Day, a husband gave his wife a useful gift: an iron. A month later the husband got the message when, for Father's Day, his wife gave him an ironing board.

One father said that Father's Day is that one time of the year when he gets complete obedience from every member of his family. He said: "I tell them not to spend a lot of money on me - and they don't."

On Mother's Day, we saw how active mothers are and how many things they do these days. Children in a Sunday school were asked about what they think fathers do. The answers were as follows:

- They throw their children higher than their heads until the children are weak from laughter.
- As far as I could observe, they bring around the car when it rains so everyone else can stay dry.
- They always take the family pictures, which is why they are never in them.
- They kept the car gassed up.
- They are not afraid to go into the basement to kill a spider.
- They teach their children to drive secretly when mom cannot see it, and also to parallel park a car.
- They let their children to make mistakes.
- They change the diapers.

On a sunny day, the husband is bringing their first baby home from the hospital. As they arrive home, the wife suggests to her husband that he should try to change the diapers. "I'm busy," he said. "I'll do the next one." The next time the baby is wet, she asks if he is ready to learn how to change diapers. He gives her a puzzled look, then says finally, "I didn't mean the next diaper; I meant the next baby!"

Sometimes fathers help their children with homework. A school teacher was correcting papers, and as she looked at one little boy's work, and she said, "I fail to understand how one person could make so many mistakes." The boy replied, "But it wasn't just one person. My dad helped!"

The ABC's of Being a Father

- A - Always trust them to God's care
- B - Bring them to church
- C - Challenge them to high goals
- D - Delight in their achievements
- E - Exalt the Lord in their presence
- F - Frown on evil
- G - Give them love
- H - Hear their problems
- I - Ignore not their childish fears
- J - Joyfully accept their apologies
- K - Keep their confidence
- L - Live a good example before them
- M - Make them your friends
- N - Never ignore their endless questions
- O - Open your home to their visits
- P - Pray for them by name
- Q - Quicken your interest in their spirituality
- R - Remember their needs
- S - Show them the way of salvation
- T - Teach them to work
- U - Understand they are still young
- V - Verify your statements
- W - Wean them from bad company
- X - eXpect them to obey
- Y - Yearn for God's best for them
- Z - Zealously guide them in biblical truth

~ Author unknown

I know that fathers are constantly being observed by their children. They learn from him how to handle adversity, anger, disappointment, and success. A loving father will leave everything behind when one of his children runs out of gas. When he is wrong and makes a mistake, he will admit it. A father has the potential to be a powerful force in the life of a child.

Let's take a look at what God expects from fathers.

First, they are to be a good role-model for their children. *"My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother."* (Proverbs 1:8) Dear fathers, please always remember that our actions speak louder than our words. Our children learn their values, morals, and priorities by observing how we, as fathers, act and react every day. My hope is that we exhibit a deep dependence on God; our children will catch these attitudes. I hope, also, that if our children see our reverence for God, so they will obey Him.

We have to teach our children God's Word. God is saying to you and me right now: *"These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."* (Deuteronomy 6:6,7)

As we celebrate fathers today, I'm mindful that it is a very difficult day for some people. For too many people, every thought about their earthly father is one of pain. I am also well aware that it is a difficult day for many single moms.

I want the Christian men to know that we have a responsibility, not only to our own immediate family, but to reflect the gospel by ministering to all kinds of children whose dads are no longer in the picture. We cannot walk by them and ignore that reality any more than we can walk by the orphans in the world.

So, Happy Father's Day. I am glad we still say it in our culture.

The time is here when we are witnessing a movement to change Mother's Day and Father's Day into sort of a generic parent day. The gender specificity of Father's Day and Mother's Day is something that is under assault in all kinds of different ways, but I am still thankful that our culture recognizes a day set aside for mothers and one set aside for fathers as well. So, today I wish to all of you: Happy Father's Day!

As a summary, dear fathers, we have to show our children that we love God, we trust in God, and we are thinking constantly about His commandments. Also, we

have to teach God's commandments to our children, and we should live each day by the guidelines in His Word.

Fathers, go ahead. You can do it! Amen.