Godly Fathers

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 16th, 2019

Text: Eph. 6:4

### Intro

1. The beginning of Father’s Day:
	1. The first Father's Day was observed in the State of Washington on June 19, 1910 at the urging of Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane, WA to honor fathers as hers raised her when her mother died.
	2. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recognized Father's Day as the third Sunday in June of that year and encouraged states to do the same. Congress officially recognized Father's Day in 1956 with the passage of a joint resolution.
	3. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson issued a proclamation recognizing the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. *(In 1972, President Richard Nixon permanently established it)*
	4. Sonora Smart Dodd lived to see her idea come to fruition. She died in 1978 at the ripe old age of 96. *(A Brief History of Father's Day by Andrew Hollandbeck)*
	5. Though this is a special one-time event each year, we all should honor our fathers on a daily basis – especially those who are pleasing to God.
2. Ps. 128: Blessed is a man whose faith is in God; blessed in his home and family!
3. The United States is rapidly becoming a fatherless society (<http://fatherhoodfactor.com/us-fatherless-statistics/>)
	1. 2011: Children living in female-headed homes with no spouse present had a poverty rate of 47.6%. This is over four times the rate for children living in married-couple families.
	2. 2014: 23.6% of US children (17.4 million) lived in father-absent homes! *(2013: 15m)*
	3. 55% (55.2) of WIC recipients are raised by single-mothers, 48.2% of all Head Start recipients are from father-absent homes, and 37% of public assistance and Section 8 housing are female-headed households.
	4. 40 percent of our children do not live in the same home as their biological father!
4. The need for godly fathers has always been great!
	1. TV and movies for the last 30 years have portrayed the father as an imbecile or a bungler, the fool in contrast to the smart and wise mother, who truly holds the family together.
	2. Godly = God-like, or like-God *(Titus 2:12: “Godly” is from G2153 that means “pious”)*
5. The world needs godly fathers: Fathers who love God & His word; fathers of faith, fathers with character & courage to meet the challenges of fatherhood (Eph. 6:4)!
6. God is our supreme example of Fatherhood (II Cor. 6:17-18) and what fathers ought to be like!

#### Fathers Are Progenitors *(to bring forth; an ancestor in the direct line; a forefather)*

#### God is our supreme example of fatherhood *(II Cor. 6:17-18).*

#### Progenitor (Father of life–Creator; New birth/adoption): Js. 1:18; Gal. 4:5-7.

#### Fathers give life to their children & more! *(to bring forth, to be an ancestor)* – Gen. 5:3

#### Most men can sire offspring; takes men of character to be fathers! (U.S. Fatherless Stats)

#### Grave responsibility to bring a soul into the world; taken far too lightly in U.S.

* 1. Children will be similar to their fathers – Gen. 5:3 *(Generally true; “In his image”)*
		1. Not just physically, but moral character & spiritual interests, due to the father’s influence & instruction upon the child. *(Saints to imitate God – Eph. 5:1)*
		2. Like produces like – The Jews: Jn. 8:39, 44; The carpenter’s son was a carpenter: Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3 *(Children’s lives are shaped by their parents!)*
	2. Like God, fathers are to be there for their children to guide and give them life & more!

#### Fathers Are Providers

* 1. God is our supreme example of fatherhood *(II Cor. 6:17-18)!*
		1. Provider (Father of lights – Constancy): Js. 1:17
	2. Fathers Provide **Many Things** for their Families:
		1. Physical provisions – I Tim. 5:8 (Lk. 11:11-13; II Cor. 12:14-15)
			1. Requires faith in God – Mt. 6:25-33; Eccl. 2:24-25; 5:18-19
			2. Demands sacrifice, dedication…RESPONSIBILITY! (Col. 3:23-24)
		2. Spiritual provisions – Eph. 6:4 (teaching & correction)
			1. Father leads in the whole training of the child – mind, morals & manners. *(Save your household like Noah – Heb. 11:7)*
			2. Instruction in God’s word – Is. 38:19; Ps. 44:1; 78:5-8:
				1. Faith, hope, thanksgiving & obedience – I Chr. 28:9; Ps. 78:7
				2. Humble & faithful – Ps. 78:8
				3. Honor your parents – Eph. 6:1-3 (Ex. 20:12); Col. 3:20
				4. Listen to your father and mother – Prov. 3:1-2; 6:20-23; 23:22
			3. Correction – Prov. 3:11-12; 6:23 (Heb. 12:5-11); II Tim. 3:16-17
		3. Emotional provisions – Col. 3:21 (God is a comforter – II Cor. 1:3-4)
			1. Easy to find fault in others, especially children! *(Need encouragement)*
		4. Example & influence – Mt. 5:16 (Phil. 3:17)
			1. Children learn what they see and live.
			2. Be salt and light for your children (Mt. 5:13-16).
			3. Be an example of faithfulness, obedience, worship, prayer, Bible study, honesty, responsibility, courtesy, kindness, etc…
	3. Like God, fathers are to provide many things to their families and see to their needs!

#### Fathers Are Protectors

* 1. God is our supreme example of fatherhood *(II Cor. 6:17-18)!*
		1. Protector (A Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Shield, Stronghold): Ps. 18:2; 31:2-3
	2. Fathers protect their families!
		1. Protect from **Physical** Harm: Gen. 45:7-8 (Job 29:16-17); Mt. 7:9-10 *(Eccl. 9:2, 11: All will die, despite best efforts – Heb. 9:27)*
			1. Protecting from cold, hunger, and harm *(I Tim. 5:8)*
			2. A father is willing to live and die for those under his protection!
			3. That is what Jesus did *(Jn. 15:13)*
			4. God designed for the man to be the leader, the head of the family, as Christ is the head of the church and gave His life for her (Eph. 5:25).
		2. Protect from **Spiritual** Danger: I Thess. 2:11-12
			1. Harm of evil influences, worldly companions, false teaching & sinful practices (Prov. 7:2, 4-5, 24-26; 13:14; I Cor. 15:33).
			2. Fathers, set the standard! (Josh. 24:15)
	3. Like God, fathers are to protect their families from physical and spiritual dangers!

## Conclusion

1. A Contrast of Two Fathers:
	1. **Abraham:** A Father God Could Trust – Gen. 18:19
		1. Fathers: Can God trust you to walk with Him, to lead your family in His ways, to provide & protect the souls under your care?
		2. As God expected him to teach his children, you are to teach yours!
	2. **Eli:**  A Father Who Preferred His Sons over God – I Sam. 2:22-25, 27-29 (3:13).
		1. We must not honor our children before (instead of) God (Mt. 10:37).
		2. Improper priorities leads to the demise of families & souls!
2. Children: Love your father, as there are many that do not have one! (Make your father’s heart rejoice by walking in God’s truth – III Jn. 4; Prov. 23:15-16)
3. Fathers: Love your children, because what they become will depend on your example & teaching! *(Read Poem, Walk A Little Plainer, Daddy by Forrest Flowers, 1969)*
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent of your sins and be baptized today!
5. If you are a Christian but not living right before God, Repent ***NOW*** and be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

**Walk A Little Plainer, Daddy**

Written by Forrest Flowers, Jan. 13, 1969

“Walk a little plainer daddy,” Said a little boy so frail.

I’m following in your footsteps, And I don’t want to fail.

Sometimes your steps are very plain, Sometimes they are hard to see.

So walk a little plainer daddy, For your are leading me.

I know that once you walked this way, Many years ago.

And what you did along the way, I’d really like to know.

For sometimes when I’m tempted, I don’t know what to do.

So walk a little plainer daddy, For I must follow you.

Someday when I’m grown up, You are like I want to be.

Then I will have a little boy, Who will want to follow me.

And I would want to lead him right, And help him to be true.

So, walk a little plainer daddy, For we must follow you.