

Sermon – A Father’s Day Message for Kids

Preached June 16, 2024 at Cloverdale Baptist Church

Ephesians 6

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Exodus 20:12

Father’s Day background: Father’s Day was founded in Spokane in 1910 by Sonora Dodd who wanted to honor her father, a Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, who was a single parent who raised his six children there. It was to complement Mother’s Day. Support was gained to more formally recognize it as businesses saw commercial opportunities. My experience with Father’s Day has been to get my dad a card or contact him when he was alive. Likewise, I can expect a card, but more recently it might be just a call or group text. Maybe, I’ll get another tie.

Ephesians 6 outlines two requirements for children with a promise of long life and good will.

- Obey them in the Lord.
 - The key is to obey but as it relates to being in the will of God (not in supporting unrighteous acts).
 - Obeying in the Lord may also indicate if obedience is outside of the will of God in a particular matter, then obeying the will of God takes precedence.
 - If you honor mom but not dad, then that’s a problem.
- Honor them. Not a suggestion but a commandment. So, honoring must also be in the Lord and in His will.
 - Do I honor dad, even if he wasn’t a good dad? Yes.
 - Do I honor dad even if he wasn’t there for me? Yes.
 - Do I honor dad even if he’s not around now? Yes.
- How can I do this in the Lord?
 - First, understand what God’s will is. His will is that you honor your parents and if you want the blessing associated with this, and if you want things to be well, and if you want to obey the will of God....then you might need some help.
- Follow the steps.
 - Lord, I understand I need to do this, but I need help. Pride may be in the way, history is making this hard but I understand the need to do this.

- I put behind me, my agenda, my list of things to do, my hurt, my feelings, my anger, etc. Let me turn instead to obeying your will and the hope and promise you give.
- Thanks for the word and instructions and hope that by faith in the process, I can have the motivation and desire to understand and obey your will.
- Through the Holy Spirit, show me how to respond in mercy and love to meet my dad where he is and minister to him and show mercy and love. The Holy Spirit will guide you to actions that bring God glory in your relationship and your actions to honor dad.
- Reach out and bring glory to God. Your reward is near. By honoring your earthly father, you honor your heavenly father. How? By doing the will of the father.
- What are ways to honor dad?
 - Communicate and spend some time in fellowship.
 - A gift.
 - The same way I honor God by spending time with Him and doing His will.
 - Love and respect your dad.
- What if my dad has already passed?
 - I don't see an expiration date in honoring my Dad.
 - I have his name, so I do things that would bring glory and honor to his name.
- What next? What if dad is crazy? Love them from a distance in the Lord.
 - This is Step #6 – it might not work out like you hope, but you get the victory as God still moves for you.

A new perspective about Father's Day:

The commercial perspective is different from the biblical perspective.

As a dad, I have often looked at this from the perspective of the parent.

- I looked forward to receiving some praise and recognition that may have been missing the rest of the year.
- But now I see it is really not about me as a dad, it's about me as a son. The promise is to the children, not the dad.
- I've switched this year from being concerned about my feelings and focus more on the well-being of my own children. If they honor me, then it will be well with them and they will be operating within the will of God.
- I love my kids so I pray that they would honor me not for me but so that it might be well with them. It's not about me receiving a gift.

I'm also a son. I want to know the will of God. I still want to honor my parents because even today, that is still the will of God and I want to do His will.

- I honor God my heavenly father by humbling myself and recognizing my need to do so.
- I put away my past mistakes and selfishness behind me. I confess and move forward.
- I accept the forgiveness and having a new mind and blessed hope, I stand on the promises of God by faithfully obeying His will.
- Powered by the Holy Spirit, I start doing things and making decisions that bring God glory.



I received a note from my Dad one day. He was sad because we didn't talk or spend time together as we did when I was growing up. I don't remember but I'm sure I was busy with life and I would probably catch up to him on Father's Day or Thanksgiving, or some other holiday.

But now as a dad, I think I understand what my Dad was feeling.

I don't think this new generation understand the implications of this today.

I hope they don't have the regrets that I had.

When I honor God, I honor my parents. When I honor my parents, I honor God.

Seven Survival Tips

1. Don't focus on what you don't have or didn't get; focus on what you do have.
2. It's not about you.
3. Celebrating fathers is not limited to just once a year.
4. You can break the cycle of dad's not being honored.
5. Honor your parents by honoring God. There is no expiration date.
6. The best gift I ever gave my dad was the Gospel.
7. Have peace no matter what happens on Father's Day.

Sermon – A Father’s Day Message for Dads

Preached June 23, 2024 at Cloverdale Baptist Church

Ephesians 6:4

⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- Regardless of whether you are honored and respected or not, we still have a priestly role. We still need to encourage our kids to walk and grow with the Lord. Encourage them to follow the steps, especially with their own children.
- Do not provoke them to anger. That can be easy to do when you don’t follow the steps.
- I would think seeing your kids walking with the Lord and bringing Him glory in their actions, would be the greatest pleasure and sign of respect that a father can experience.

How do we provoke children to wrath?

- Being unkind, overly-critical attitude, tough love without training correctly.
- No training, do it because I said so.
- Disciplining without self-control.
- Abuse of power.
- Jokes, especially about their appearance.
- Not listening or meeting them where they are.

Why do we provoke them?

- Because they tick us off.
- They disobey.
- Lack of respect.
- They fail to meet or perform to our expectations.
- We become bullies.
- Because that’s how we were treated....we got knocked out.
- We just don’t know any better.
- Because we don’t follow the steps.

I have been there.

- David’s first year of basketball training.
- Running with David.



My good moments. I started training them and not just telling them. Realized I don't need the honor, they do.

- Training and guiding them in life, in school, on their jobs, in their relationships.
- Nurture = punishment
- Admonition = mild warning, exhortation.

We are called to discipline with understanding. We need to know where they are and meet them there. See Col 3:21.

Such as the Lord approves, and by His Spirit dictates. Follow the steps.

- Jasmine stepping on Braydon's food example.

I read this scripture before, but didn't understand or apply it correctly. I thought my way would work better. God's way is a better way.

Ask questions to promote self-reflection and greater understanding.

Background Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Proverbs 22:6

Proverbs 1:8

Proverbs 13:24