

Father's Day
Part II
“What to Give the Kids on Father's Day”
June 16, 2013
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Good morning, Lighthouse!

Today's message is Father's Day Part II.

Ephesians 6:1-4

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- 2 Honor 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.

As we learned last week, *Father's Day* in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make for their children's lives.

There are two terms within this definition of Father's Day that I would like to bring to your attention today as we begin to look at what kids need from their dads:

The first word is “contribution.” I just want to remind you that you ARE right now contributing to the lives of your children. Whether a positive

contribution by your presence and right example – or – a negative contribution by your absence or poor example; you ARE contributing to their lives.

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

We all do affect the lives of those around us.

The second term I would like you to notice is “father figure.” Every dad, particularly every Christian dad, is a father figure to a lot of other kids besides his own. Some of you who are not dads at all are very influential “father figures” in the lives of many other children; especially if you are in a position of leadership here in the Church.

Being a ‘father figure’ comes with accountability before the Lord just like being a father does.

Today there are four areas of that accountability with which we are charged the Lord has laid on my heart for all you fathers and father figures; there is so much that could be preached; this is simply what the Lord is sending us today.

What to give the kids this Father’s Day? First:

I. Give them Time.

A. What exactly is time?

1. Its life; time is the stuff life is made of.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

2. To many of us; especially to a kid, time equates to love.

3. 30 years ago when I lay on a death bed with cancer, the number one correction God used it to make in my life was this one!

4. Don't make God have to put you on a death bed to make you realize that your kids need your time.

5. I wish I could say I became a perfect dad after the Lord gave me back my life; far from it; but things definitely did change!

6. I still to this day look for every opportunity I can find to spend time with my kids.

7. When we do not make time for the things most important we say, 'I just didn't have time'.

B. We all have the same 24 hours in every day; what do you do with yours?

1. There are 5 basic areas into which our time is divided:

a. Work or vocational time.

- b. Family time.
- c. Personal time.
- d. God time.
- e. Sleep.

2. There is the wonderful advantage of these categories sometimes overlapping; like for example; bringing your whole family together on Sunday in God's house.

3. But just think for a moment about those other six days; if, like many, you sleep 8 hours and work 12 hours; that leaves only 4 hours to divide between family time, personal time and the Lord.

4. If you have a wife and three kids and did nothing personal (like that's going to happen); you can see how little of you there is to go around. I am not trying to put you on a guilt trip:

5. Our point today is simply this; if you just go with the flow; if you simply react to whatever happens around you; if you do not play a role in actually managing your time; there will be little or none at all for those who need it the most!

6. In case you haven't figured it out; there is no such thing as spare time!

C. Of those five basic areas of your life, which should receive the highest priority?

1. Let me give you a hint: it is not sleep, it is not work - and life is not about you.
2. That leaves God and family; the two that are in last place with most dads you know.
3. Jesus gave us the answer; maybe this should be the day you re-think what you do with your time. **Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Secondly:

II. Give them Kindness.

A. Do you realize that everything can and should be done in kindness?

1. **Ephesians 4:31-32**

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And **be ye kind** one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

2. **Colossians 3:12-13**

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, **kindness**, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

3. **1 Corinthians 13:4** Charity [love] suffereth long, *and is kind*;

B. As we have seen; even at best, the time you give your children will be short.

1. Are you going to ruin what little they get with anger and unkindness?
2. Some of you need to get a handle on your temper and start treating your family like the precious gift from the Lord they are.
3. I said 'precious', not 'perfect'; their behavior is not an excuse for your unkindness. You and you alone are responsible for your conduct.
4. 'But they make me so mad', No they don't! No one can make you mad, just like no one can make you happy. Those conditions are rooted in the choices that you and only you can make.

Next:

III. Give them Consistency.

One kid said; "Yeah, my dad is consistent, he is always mad."

A. In this one, Jesus is our primary example.

1. **Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

2. A dad ought to be someone you can count on; that requires consistency.

3. **1Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **steadfast, unmovable, always abounding** in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

4. Your kids need someone they can always come to; someone they can always count on; someone they know will always give them right advice. Dad; that ought to be you.

B. Consistency is essential in every area of your relationship.

1. You need to become consistent in good temperament.

2. You need to become consistent as a provider.

3. You need to become consistent in keeping your word; yes, it is just as important to keep your word to your kids as it is to the banker or the employer.

4. You need to become consistent in a righteous walk with God.

5. Some of you have made great progress in all these areas since you've been saved; we all need to make a lot more.

And last:

IV. Give them a Godly Example.

A. The world will be more than happy to give your kids an example to follow.

1. Hollywood is turning them out by the dozens; one new sex idol after another.
2. All the new gaming adventures that kids and adults alike are all wrapped up in today; more vile examples to emulate; and they are not even real.
3. Worldly music, rock stars, party, party, party; sex drugs and rock and roll.
4. Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.
 Eph 5:7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
 Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are* ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
 Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
 Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
 Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Eph 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

5. It used to be that people were ashamed of their sin done in secret but now it is plastered all over facebook and twitter and youtube for your kids to see and emulate.

B. We have many Godly patterns in Scripture to follow:

1. Abraham was a man that God loved, spoke to and shared His heart with; like we are supposed to do with our children.

Genesis 18:18-19

18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

2. Abraham didn't just command his children; many dads do that.

3. God said Abraham will command his children "after him." Abraham will set the example.

4. Abraham was not a perfect dad; you won't be either; but he was willing to say, "Do what I do" not just what I say.

5. Paul and Timothy were Godly examples.

1. Like Paul, this is what a dad ought to be able to say to his kids:

Philippians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

2. Dad; more than anyone else, they will do what they see in you, whatever that is.

3. **1Timothy 4:11-12**

11 These things command and teach.

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

4. There are no guarantees you children will always follow, but every kid needs somebody to look up to in his/her life that is 100% committed to the Lord.

5. That somebody ought to be their dad.

In Conclusion:

It is not too late to start becoming the father or the father figure God designed you to be.

Like Father's Day itself; better late than never.

**Abraham had to make a choice.
 Paul had to make a choice.
 Timothy had to make a choice.
 Moses had to make a choice.**

Hebrews 11:24-25

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

What is that choice? Is it choosing to be a good dad?

No, sorry; you can come down here and get on your knees and commit yourself to be a better dad and by Tuesday or Wednesday you will likely be just like you were in just about every way.

No, the real choice is not to be a good dad; the choice is to be a God dad. You can chose to let the Lord make you into what He designed you to be.

It starts with learning:

Learn what this book is.

Learn who Jesus is.

Learn what Jesus did for you.

Trust Him to save you from your sins.

And that is just the beginning; only then (**with Christ in you**) can you begin to become the dad every kid needs.

Matthew 11:28-29

28 **Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

You need to get into the Word and learn from God how to live. Many of you are simply NOT in the Word; some of you are doing things with your life there is no way you could be doing if you had even a clue what the scriptures say about it.

The choice for a Christian dad has always been the same; Jesus or the world.

Romans 12:1-2

1 **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.***

2 **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

James 4:4 ...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

How about it dad? How about it you Christian men? Are you going to stand up and be the Godly examples these kids and grand kids and other kids need; or are you going to embrace the world and be no different like all the rest?