

Honoring Fathers

A Long Life is Promised
To The obedient

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Father's Day

This is the day we honor our fathers. It is interesting how Father's Day began. In 1910 there was a lady named Senora Dodd in Spokane, Washington.

She was sitting in a church service on Mother's Day and as she was listening to a sermon about mothers, she thought about her father. Her father was a Civil War veteran.

Her mom had died early in life so for all of the years of her life and the years of her siblings, they had been brought up by their father. He was a very devout and godly man. She thought it would be a wonderful thing to have a special time to honor her father and all fathers. Because he was born in the month of June, she was able to have a special day honoring her father on the third Sunday of June in 1910 in Spokane, Washington.

Many years later, 56 years later, in 1966, Lyndon Johnson signed the proclamation declaring that the third Sunday in June would be set aside as Father's Day, a day when we would recognize and honor and pay tribute to our earthly fathers.

Illustration.

There is something special about a dad and his children when they are in church together. I heard about a fellow who was sitting with his dad in church and the offering plate was approaching. He said, don't pay for me, dad, I'm under five.

Honor Your Father

Summary: In God's Word we are commanded to honor our fathers. Honoring both our earthly fathers and our Heavenly Father is not meant for just the third Sunday in June but is to be done every day of our life.

Ephesians 6:1-7

In God's Word we are commanded to honor our fathers. To honor someone is to give them particular attention; high or special regard.

Someone has said, "Honor is, therefore, the exact opposite of thoughtlessness and neglect. It conveys a sense of enormous importance to the thing to which it is given. It is an expression of value and worth."

Honoring both our earthly fathers and our Heavenly Father is not meant for just the third Sunday in June but is to be done every day of our life. Allow me to give you three ways to do this.

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

If our faith in Christ is real, it will usually prove itself in our relationships at home with those who know us best. Children and parents have a responsibility to each other. Children should honor their parents even if the parents are demanding and unfair. Parents should care gently for their children, even if the children are disobedient and unpleasant. Ideally, of course, Christian parents and Christian children will relate to each other with thoughtfulness and love.

1 Corinthians 11:3 "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ."

Being the head is not about being a tyrant or dictator. A father has great responsibilities to his wife and to his children.

Ephesians 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Being the head of the family is about lovingly providing for and guiding the family in the will of God and into a closer relationship with God.

Illustration

I heard about the little girl who walked out of the service after it was over and she said to the pastor, when I grow up, I'm going to give you some money. The pastor said, Thank you, dear, but why? She said, because my dad says you are the poorest preacher we ever had.

The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which of them should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother? Who does everything she says?" Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, dad, you get the toy."

Illustration

I read about a little girl who drew a picture. She went in her dad's office. Crawled on his lap. And said, "Daddy, come and see my picture." And the dad said, "Not now, honey. Dad's busy."

About 10 minutes later, she came back again. Crawled on his lap. And said,

"Daddy, will you come see my picture now?"

And the dad got frustrated. And said, "Can't you see I'm busy? Don't bother

me right now. I'll come and look at your picture later. When I'm ready."

A couple of hours later, the dad came out. And he said to the daughter, "Can

May I see the picture now?" And the girl said, "Sure." And it was a picture of her and her brother and her mom standing on the lawn. With the family dog.

With big smiles. On a sunny day. But the dad noticed that he wasn't in the picture. And so the dad said, "That's a nice picture, sweetheart. But how come I'm not in the picture?"

And the girl said, "Because you're working in your office, daddy."

The book of Provers give an examples of the duty of fathers:

Fathers Give Instruction. Proverbs 13:1

A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

Fathers Give Reproof. Proverbs 15:5

A fool despisest his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Fathers Provide Foundations. Proverbs 22:28

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

Illustration.

Well, it was a typical scenario of young boys debating whose father was the best. This discussion highlighted who their fathers knew. The first boy started the debate by claiming his father knew the mayor. He was soon topped by the second boy who said,

"That's nothing. My dad knows the governor." The stakes were getting pretty high, and the eavesdropping father wondered what his young son would say about him.

The little boy shot back, "So what! My dad knows God!" Would your son say the same thing? May our children always be able to say, "My dad knows God!"

Have a happy father's day, and remember your influence will live on for generations to come.

Prayer for the fathers.