

HAPPY
Father's
Day



The Dad Who Pleases God

Today's Message (21 June 2020) / *Psalm 128*



THE DAD
WHO
PLEASES
GOD IS THE
ONE WHO
FEARS GOD.

Dads, there has never been a more critical time for us to step up or keep up in our leadership in the family. There is a global crisis. A worldwide economic recession is expected. Businesses will be closing and people will be losing jobs. The crime rate is expected to go up. Just causes are being used as alibis for looting and anarchy.

All of these will be used as reasons for people to live life at the expense of others—the moral breakdown of society. But the breakdown of society is directly related to the breakdown of the family. And the breakdown of leadership in the family is directly related to the breakdown of morality in society. At a time when most fathers already struggle with feelings of inadequacy or failure in family leadership, here is a passage filled with God's promises that remind us, that when we do or part, we can trust God to do His.

1. THE REQUIREMENT TO PLEASE GOD: A FATHER WHO FEARS THE LORD (vv. 1, 4)

What is the fear of the Lord? A reverence for God that arises from a knowledge of God and results in obedience to God. To walk in God's ways is just the natural outcome of reverence for God (2 Corinthians 7:1).

- a. **How can I ever know God enough?** It begins with having a personal relationship with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. God takes it from there to teach us to love and fear God.
- b. **How can I learn the fear of God?**
 - Personally:
 - ◆ The Word of God
 - ◆ Prayer
 - In Community (Acts 2:42-47):
 - ◆ Worship
 - ◆ Fellowship
 - ◆ Service

Note: This is not a frustrating and unrealistic striving for perfection, but the pursuit of excellence

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in our relationship with God. Nowhere is mediocrity worse when tolerated, than in our relationship with God!

2. THE REWARDS OF PLEASING GOD (vv. 2-5a, 6a)

These are brought about by God according to His perfect will, in His perfect time and way:

- a. You will eat the fruit of your labor.
- b. You will be blessed in the present, and blessed in the future.
- c. Your wife will be fruitful. "Fruitful vine" is a picture for fertility, intimacy and festivity.
- d. Your children will be growing sources of joy ("olive shoots").
- e. God will extend your life and bless your children (grandchildren!) The man pictured here is a happy old man, enjoying God's blessing as he sees his grandchildren following the Lord.

A man who pursues financial success to the disregard of his home will end up with poverty in his soul. A man who follows God's mandate for his home will end up with prosperity in his soul.

3. THE RESULT OF FATHERS WHO FEAR GOD: NATIONAL WELL-BEING (vv. 5b, 6b)

If we want to see our nation turned around, we must start within our homes. We must follow God's pattern by becoming people who fear God, and teaching our children by example and words to do the same.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The dad who pleases God is the one who fears God. When you realize that to fear God is to be aware of His fearsome reality so that you adjust your life positively, walking in God's ways is its natural outcome. And it will bring about blessings according to God's perfect will in His perfect time and perfect way.

Thus is that father blessed, who fears God! **Happy Fathers' Day to all our dads, literal and spiritual! ■**

FAMILY/GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the key ingredient in becoming a God-fearing father?
2. How do parents avoid perfectionism but maintain high standards?
3. Pray together, asking God to bless your dad (or yourself if you are a dad) in case he is frustrated, anxious, worried or complacent, so that he becomes the kind of father God wants him to be, and enjoy fatherhood in the process, too!

The Church Online

GCF ONLINE MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVestream (GCF Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Uploaded every Sunday, 1:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfmain

Worship through Giving

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You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



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