

Father's Day

TOP 10 THINGS YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER HEAR A DAD SAY.

- 10 Well, how 'bout that? I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions.
- 9 You know princess, now that you're thirteen, you'll be ready for unchaperoned car dates.
- 8 Son I noticed that all your friends have a rebellious attitude... I like that.
- 7 Here's a credit card and the keys to my truck. GO CRAZY!!!
- 6 What do you mean you wanna play football? Cheer leading's not good enough for you, son?
- 5 Your Mother and I are going away for the weekend. You might want to consider throwing a party.
- 4 Well, I don't know what's wrong with your car. Probably one of those doo-hickey thingamajigs or something. Just have it towed to a mechanic and pay whatever he asks.
- 3 No child of mine is going to wear hand me downs. Now quit complaining, and let's go to the mall.
- 2 Whaddya wanna go and get a job for? I make plenty of money for you to spend.
1. What do I want for my birthday? Aahh—don't worry about that. It's no big deal. (Okay, they might say it. But they don't mean it)

In all seriousness, we are to honor our fathers, and our mothers, and this day in June is set aside for us to honor the fathers in this country.

What Is a Father?

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without anesthetic.

A father is a thing that grumbles when he feels good...and laughs loud when he is scared half to death.

A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He is never quite the hero his daughter thinks he is...never quite the man his son believes him to be...and this worries him, sometimes. So he works hard to try to smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who follow him.

A father is a thing that gets upset when the grades in school are not as good as he thinks they should be. He scolds his child...though he knows it is really the teacher's fault.

Fathers grow old faster than other people. Because they have to stand at the airport and wave good-bye to their son being deployed who flies away to face the unknown. And while mothers can cry and let their feelings show, fathers have to be brave and beam confidence on the outside...while quietly dying inside.

Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who are not nearly good enough...so they can have grandchildren that are smarter and better looking than anybody else's.

Fathers fight dragons...almost daily.

They hurry away from the breakfast table...off to the arena of battle, which is sometimes called an office. There, with callused, proficient hands, they tackle the dragon with three heads: weariness, work, and monotony. They never quite win the fight, but they never give up. Knights in shining armor or fathers in dress shirts, there is little difference, as they march away to each new workday.

A Dad Is Destiny. That's what a cover article in U.S. News & World Report concluded. "More than any other factor, a father's presence in the family will determine a child's success and happiness." The article noted that nearly 2 out of every 5 children in America do not live with their fathers.

Quotes:

"Committed fatherhood would do more to restore a normal childhood to every child, and dramatically reduce our nation's most costly social problems, than all of the pending legislation in America combined."—National Fatherhood Initiative.

"The most urgent domestic challenge facing the U.S. at the beginning of the 21st century is the re-creation of fatherhood as a social role for men."—Institute for American Values.

We need fathers that will take their God given places according to what God's word says and not according to what Hollywood says. We need more Abraham's, Isaac's and Jacobs and less Hollywood dads as our models. We need Joseph (Jesus' adoptive dad) models.

A good father does these basic things: provides for his family, protects his family, and gives spiritual and moral guidance.

Today we are to honor our fathers, not because it's a holiday, not because it's a tradition, not because there are sales for guy stuff going on all over the country, but because God said to very specifically.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NKJV)

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."

Notice that it doesn't say, honor only good moms and dads.

It doesn't say, honor them if you like them.

It doesn't say, honor them if they deserve it.

It says, "honor your father and mother."

So, today, we honor ALL fathers. I want to speak today dealing with three areas in which fathers are extremely important.

While I am speaking directly to the dads here today, if you're not a dad, don't check out on me, because we all need to hear this.

You see, we are involved in a war today, and the battleground is not in Iraq or Afghanistan. The battleground is in our homes, schools and society as a whole.

What's at stake is not our land, our property or our freedoms.

It's more important than that. What's at stake are our children. And believe me—it's a war, it's an important war, and in this country, we are losing the battle.

Young people are turning away from their faith in record numbers. It's as if when they leave home and go to college they leave the church behind. And if you don't believe me, look around here this morning. And lest you think that it's only a problem here, it is true all over this country. Young people in record numbers are turning away from God.

Sadly, it's nothing new nor should it surprise us. It has been happening over the course of time.

June 25th 1962 – The Supreme court ruled against prayer in school.

1980 – The 10 commandments banned from school.

2005 – The 10 commandments banned from court house.

I want to show you a brief Bible story this morning that's going to be our guide for the remaining time we have today—and I'll try to be brief. It's found in Judges chapter 2 in the Old Testament. Let me give you a little background.

The nation of Israel had just marched into the promised land, and they were settling into the land. Now, it wasn't a complete victory, because when they went in, they didn't completely follow what God desired, and instead of conquering all of it, they instead settled into just some of it.

In the passages just before what we're going to look at, they were condemned by an angel because they didn't do what God desired and they were shown how they would suffer.

Judges 2:4-12 (NKJV)

Once Joshua and his generation passed away, the next generation turned their back on God and worshiped the gods of the people (society) around them.

Today in 2017, the young don't wait for grandparents and mom and dad to pass away. They turn away immediately, and worship the god of entertainment. They worship the god of fame. They worship the god of convenience. They worship the god of this world. They worship the world in all of its ways.

What is the definition of the world?

1 John 2:16 (NKJV)

Romans 1 closely parallels what is going on today in America.

Romans 1:28-32 (NCV)

We live in a culture that approves and encourages the turning of its back on God.

From Politics, to the Courts to TV to Popular movies, it's okay to make fun of religion, to ridicule God, because it's not important, He's not relevant. Religion is just foolish and simple thinking for naive old mom and dad, but it's not for me.

Well, can I tell you this morning, moms and dads, you are on the front lines of a war. Dad as leaders of the family, I want to show you your role in this important task of saving our children.

How can we win the war for the hearts and minds of our youth?

1. With our Words.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NKJV)

You need to talk to you children. Be involved in their lives. Daily develop a relationship with them. Tell them about God, and teach them about the Bible. Tell that what God has done for you and in you. Are you sharing your life experiences with God, with your children?

A study was done recently to determine the amount of interaction between middle class, middle age, fathers and their young children. The fathers were each asked to estimate the amount of time they spent each day interacting with their child. The average answer from the Fathers was about 15 to 20 minutes.

Next, microphones were attached to each father so that every interaction with their child could be recorded. The resulting facts of this study were shocking. The average amount of time spent by these fathers with their children was 37 seconds per day. Their direct interaction was limited to 3 encounters daily, lasting 10 to 15 seconds each!

Look at Deuteronomy (v.6-7) again with me.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (The Message)

Do you believe you can accomplish that in your kids in 37 seconds a day? Think about just how much time the culture of this world has with your children every day. 37 seconds does not come close to making an impression.

Communicate with your children; tell them about God and about the Bible.

Proverbs 1:8 (NKJV)

Don't let the schools be the only ones that instruct your children. Don't even let this church be the only thing that instructs your children. And that's not an indictment on the teaching ministry of this church, but mom and dad, we are not responsible for raising your kids.

We will help you, but when the Bible says to Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it—that's not direction to the church, that's to parents.

Dad's, how are you doing with investing your words? Are you speaking up against the enemy trying to steal your kids?

2. With our Time.

A Dad once asked his daughter what she thought were the biggest problems fathers have with kids. She said, "Dads have too many 'tomorrows.' What do you mean he asked? You know, "I'll play with you tomorrow, I'll talk to you tomorrow, we will do it tomorrow."

She was right.

Dad, be there now for your children, building quality and quantity benchmarks of trust. Don't wait until tomorrow—or you'll end up wasting too many today's.

Robert Schuller, former pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, once said that he chose to fail so that he could succeed... He said, "I chose to fail at golf, because I wanted to succeed as a father." Though he loved golf immensely, he knew that he could never devote adequate time to his job, his hobby, and his family... so he gave up his hobby.

Dad how are you doing with your Time investment?

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 (The Message)

Dad's, do you want to know what is actually important in your life today?

Look at your schedule, and where your time is devoted to, that's what is important to you. Unfortunately, many dads say with their time they love their jobs. They love their hobbies. They love their entertainment, their comfort.

Like the fathers in the study, if you asked them if they loved their children, they would swear to you that they do. But their time spent only with their kids tells the real truth.

Many Christian dads have bought into the thinking of this world. I've got to keep working and working so I can provide for my kids the finer things of this world, and providing for family is important and biblical. That's true.

1 Timothy 5:8 (NKJV)

Yet I think that we more often go beyond what is necessary and prudent.

A man once asked his little daughter if she would want quality time or quantity time with him. She replied, "Quality time, Dad, and lots of it!"

I read about a little girl who drew a pretty picture using all of her colorful crayons. She proudly went in her dad's home office and crawled up on his lap and said, "Daddy, come and see my picture." Her dad said, "Not now, honey. Dad's busy."

About 10 minutes later, she came back again and asked, "Daddy, will you please come see my picture now?"

Her 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 have time." Hours later, the dad came out from his office and said to the daughter, "Can I see your picture now?" And the little girl said, "Sure."

It was a picture of her and her brother and her mom standing on the front lawn with the family dog sitting next to them. They were all drawn with big smiles enjoying a beautiful sunny day. However, the dad noticed that he wasn't in the picture. So, he asked, "That's a nice picture, sweetheart but how come I'm not in your picture?"

The little girl said, "Because you're in your office, working daddy."

Time is a gift you give that you can never get back or replace. You can give money, and always make more. You can give gifts, because you can always buy more things. But once time is given, it never comes back, it can never be replaced.

Time spent reveals the priorities in your life.

If you want to win the war for your children, you've got to invest your time in them.

3. With your Lives.

Genesis 18:18-19 (NKJV)

This is a revealing passage for us Dads today. The way you live your life and the way you worship God will be a direct reflection of how your children will grow up.

- If both your parents worshipped with you regularly while you were growing up, there's an 80% likelihood that you'll worship God regularly as an adult.
- If only your mother worshipped regularly with you, there's only a 30% probability that you'll worship regularly as an adult.
- If only your father worshipped regularly with you, the likelihood that you'll worship regularly as an adult increases to 70%!

Fathers have an enormous impact on their children's faith and values.

There's a song by Philips, Craig & Dean called, "I want to be just like you."

*He climbs in my lap for a goodnight hug
He calls me Dad and I call him Bub
With his faded old pillow and a bear named Pooh*

*He snuggles up close and says "I want to be like you"
I tuck him in bed and I kiss him goodnight
Trippin' over the toys as I turn out the light
And I whisper a prayer that someday he'll see
He's got a father in God 'cause he's seen Jesus in me*

*Lord, I want to be just like You
'Cause he wants to be just like me
I want to be a holy example
For his innocent eyes to see
Help me be a living Bible, Lord
That my little boy can read
I want to be just like You
'Cause he wants to be like me*

*Got to admit I've got so far to go
Make so many mistakes and I'm sure that You know
Sometimes it seems no matter how hard I try
With all the pressures in life I just can't get it all right
But I'm trying so hard to learn from the best
Being patient and kind, filled with Your tenderness
'Cause I know that he'll learn from the things that he sees
And the Jesus he finds will be the Jesus in me
Right now from where he stands I may seem mighty tall
But it's only 'cause I'm learning from the best Father of them all*

Jaxon my grandson is only 4 months old, and he loves me and watches me. He hears my voice and will turn himself into a pretzel to see me. He already tries to repeat the sounds I make. Soon he'll repeat the things I say and eventually he will copy the things I do. He loves me, and will want to be like me. I'd better be the right kind of grandpa, because he will mirror me.

One little boy was caught swearing. "Young man, where did you learn to talk that way?" said the boy's mother. The boy looked over at his father and said, "Well, Dad, should I tell her, or should you?"

Dad, what kind of example are you setting for your kids? Your words may say some things about you, but your life declares who you really are.

Are you fighting the war for your children with your life's example?

A group of young boys were debating whose father was the best. This discussion led to highlighting 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 of the youngest boy wondered what his young son would say about him. The little boy proclaimed, "So what, my dad knows God!"

Would your child say the same thing?

May our children always be able to say, "My dad knows God!"