



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 17, 2012

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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FATHER'S DAY

William B. Franklin has penned the following "definition" of a dad: "If he's wealthy and prominent and you stand in awe of him, call him 'father.' If he sits in his shirt sleeves and suspenders at a ball game and picnic, call him 'Pop.' If he wheels the baby carriage and carries bundles meekly, call him 'Papa' (with the accent on the first syllable). If he belongs to a literary circle and writes cultured papers, call him 'Papa' (with the accent on the last syllable).

"If however, he makes a pal of you when you're good, and is too wise to let you pull the wool over his loving eyes when you are not; if, moreover, you're quite sure no other fellow you know has quite so fine a father, you may call him 'Dad.'"

There is little doubt or dispute that a father has a profound impact on his children. That impact may be for good or for evil. The influence, teaching and modeling of a father has started many a youngster down the path of life destined for greatness or destined for destruction. It is true that children grow up and assume responsibility for their own lives, their own actions and their own destinies. But it is equally true that dads make a tremendous difference in the lives of their children. As you celebrate Father's Day, consider your father. Think of his positive traits and how he influenced you. Ponder his teaching and life and how it affected you. Be thankful for the ways that your dad helped you on the path of life. Take responsibility for your actions regardless of what your dad taught you.

If you are a father, consider your impact on the life of your children. There is no other person that God has ordained to guide and direct the home but you (**Ephesians 6:4**). Commit yourself to the awesome responsibility of stewardship for the lives of your children. Pray. Pray for your family. Pray for yourself. After all, God knows a little bit about being a Father.

From Wartburg Church of Christ bulletin

FATHERS:

Our Mandate, Meaning, & Method

The Bible gives a clear mandate to fathers in **Deuteronomy 6**: *“Hear, O Israel: the Lord thy God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates...”*

Fathers have a vital job, and no one else can do it for them. Note what this passage says, **Good fathering is deliberate, determined, diligent, and daily.** It cannot be a “spare time” activity.

In the *“Closing of the American Mind,”* Alan Bloom blames some of the breakdown of the family on the lack of three things. Bible knowledge, practicing religion in the home, and the carrying on of traditions. **Better Homes and Garden** once polled 300,000 parents and asked, “What is the greatest threat to the American family?” The number one answer was “an inattentive parent.” A study by **Christianity Today** found that the average father spends only three minutes a day with his children and about 37 seconds with an infant.

Fathers have the ability but not the dedication. Many years ago, William Law wrote, “If you stop and ask yourself why you are not as pious as the primitive Christians were, your own heart will tell you that it’s neither through ignorance or inability, but purely because you never thoroughly intended it.”

Many a father can look back upon his life and think, “I wanted to be a good father. I could have been a good father. Why wasn’t I? What happened? He never thoroughly intended it.”

Good fathering is natural. “Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Our faith should not be abstract and separate from our lives, but clear and assumed in the way we live.

Good fathering is personal. We are molding young lives for an uncertain future – a frightening task. Fathering is not a paint-by-numbers task. There is no quick, easy formula. You must, in your own way, make the most of this vital encounter between you and your children.

Our heavenly Father goes on in the passage to emphasize His meaning. This is serious! Not an option! “I mean it.” God seems to say, “Everything depends on whether you pass your faith to your children.” Dan Quayle was ridiculed for saying that our society is suffering a moral crisis in the home. He was right. More specifically, ours is a national crisis of fatherhood.

God then gives us a **Method.** “In the future when your son asks you ‘What is the meaning of...’ tell him, ‘We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand...’” Our children look to us and implore “Interpret the world for us, daddy. What does it all mean?” If we do nothing else, let us make sure our children know the story of what God has done for His people, what He has done for us, and what He requires.

Gary Williams