



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 16, 2019

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

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A Father's Toolbox

Back on the farm, I remember that when something broke down, my father would get out his toolbox and make the repairs. As a child, I was always fascinated by his toolbox and its contents. It seemed my father could fix almost anything with the tools inside.

From the very beginning, God has designated husbands/fathers as the leaders of the home (**Genesis 3:16**). Fathers have a great responsibility in making sure the whole family goes the right direction in the name of the Lord. The Christian father needs to have his spiritual toolbox at the ready to make sure this is the case. Some of the tools that should be in it are:

Adjustable wrench – Fathers must be able to adapt to any situation that arises, so that they can continue to lead properly.

Carpenter's pencil – Fathers must be able to draw the boundaries for the family and keep them so that all can clearly see them.

Level – Fathers must be fair and keep a level head in all circumstances.

Pliers – Fathers must be able to hold everything together even when everybody else may be losing their grip.

Hammer – Fathers must be effective in driving home important truths.

Utility knife – Fathers must be able to cleanly separate and remove undesirable things and influences, so that they do not harm the family.

Screwdriver – Fathers must be willing to keep turning the right direction to help keep the family secure.

Tape measure – Fathers must be measuring and monitoring the family's use of time, resources, and priorities.

Duct tape – Fathers must be ready to apply a quick fix to problems so that they don't get out of hand, holding them in check until a permanent solution is found.

Extension cord – Fathers must plug into the proper power source and distribute it to every family member.

Fathers are important, and they must use the proper tools and take the time to build and mend the family into a strong structure for the Lord.

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4).

Edd Sterchi

FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic Europe, it has been celebrated on March 19 (St. Joseph's Day) since the Middle Ages. This celebration was brought by the Spanish and Portuguese to Latin America, where March 19 is often still used for it, though many countries in Europe and the Americas have adopted the U.S. date, which is the third Sunday of June (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father%27s_Day).

As with Mother's Day, Father's Day is a day in which we look to give special attention to our fathers. We look to buy them gifts, cards, and perhaps treat them to a special meal. In general, it is an attempt to make sure that we are making our fathers happy on their special day, but should we only attempt to make our father's happy one day a year.

It is interesting to notice in the Bible that the loving figure of the supreme father is assigned to the person of the Godhead we refer to as God the Father (**John 6:26; Matthew 28:19**). In fact, it is interesting that Jesus said not to call anyone on earth father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven (**Matthew 23:9**). This might cause some to think that they should not call their dad by the title of father. However, I believe a further examination of the context will show that Jesus was warning of assigning titles to men that would put them on the level with God. In fact, the Bible refers to our male parent countless times as father (**Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 6:2-4**). However, I would be extremely cautious of assigning someone the religious title of "father."

I think it is pretty obvious that we should be looking to make our Heavenly Father happy on a regular basis, but a little study will show that God wants us to make our earthly father happy on a regular basis as well. In fact, when God gave the list of commandments that summarized the Old Law one of those was "*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you*" (**Exodus 20:12**). This verse is quoted at least six times in the New Testament. Paul even pointed out that this was the first commandment with promise (**Ephesians 6:2**).

The Proverbs are also an excellent place to go to see what the Bible says about making our fathers happy. Consider the following: "*My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother*" (**Proverbs 1:8**). The proverbs of Solomon: "*A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother*" (**Proverbs 10:1**). "*He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach*" (**Proverbs 19:26**). "*Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness*" (**Proverbs 20:20**). "*Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice*" (**Proverbs 23:25**).

As for the New Testament two places of note are Paul's letters to Ephesus and Colosse where he addresses the Christian home (**Ephesians 6:2ff; Galatians 6:20**). We could go on with many other verses, but I believe that the picture is clear that making our earthly fathers happy is not something that is just one day. However, maybe it can at least be a reminder that we should always try to make our father happy.

Doug Tooley