



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 17, 2018

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THE PATIENT FATHER

We are told that children learn many life lessons from their fathers. I am delighted to hear that more and more fathers are seeing the importance of their role in the upbringing of their children. A recent survey showed that nearly half of all fathers spend more time with their children than their own dads did, and they think that is still not enough.

But as a father, I have learned many things from my own children. For instance I learned:

- A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2,000 sq. ft. house 5 inches deep.
- Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
- You probably DO NOT want to know what that odor is.
- Always look in the oven before you turn it on; plastic toys do not like ovens.
- The fire department in my hometown has a 5-minute response time.

Of course, the above list is only a joke. But there are many important truths I've learned from my kids. One of them is the importance of love and patience. The Bible says, "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*" (**Romans 12:12**).

Raising children requires the patience of Job and the endurance of Paul. That's no secret. It is rewarding when your children grow up and demonstrate that same patience with you. For example, when your health and strength and memory began to fade, it is a blessing to have children who are patient with you.

When we show patience to our children and our parents and to anyone else, we are imitating the example that the Heavenly Father shows to us. "*But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness*" (**Psalms 86:15**).

"Lord, thank you for Christian Fathers and Christian sons and daughters who are patient with others. And thank you for your patience. Amen!"

Larry Fitzgerald

FAITHFUL FATHERS

It has been said that Father's Day is just like Mother's Day except you spend less on the gift! All humor aside, society has sadly downplayed the importance of a father in the home. Too many children are being raised without their fathers in their lives. And too many fathers who are still in the same home with their children are not active enough in their families' lives.

Fathers are to be the providers of the family (**Genesis 3:17-19; I Timothy 5:8**). This is an awesome task. **Proverbs 20:6** states, "*Most men will proclaim goodness, but who can find a faithful man?*" We could easily paraphrase that to "who can find a faithful father?" What must a faithful father provide for his family?

A faithful father provides for the physical needs of the family (**II Corinthians 12:14; Matthew 7:9-10**). By the way, besides the obvious (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) our children need our time as well. The greatest physical thing we can give our children is ourselves.

A faithful father provides for the spiritual direction of the family (**Ephesians 6:4; Isaiah 38:19**). Fathers, we need to take the spiritual lead and guide our families toward heaven. They also need to see in us people who are serious about honoring and serving God properly.

A faithful father provides for the proper discipline of the family (**Hebrews 12:7, 11; Proverbs 13:24**). There are many effective forms of discipline, and a faithful father knows that proper and timely discipline will yield the fruit of righteousness.

A faithful father provides sympathetic understanding to all the members of the family (**Colossians 3:21; Psalms 103:13**). We need to express our love, communicate with, and show compassion to our children. They need to see our "ears" and our "tears" from time to time.

While fathers upon the earth may fail in these areas from time to time, we need to remember that God, our heavenly Father, is perfect (**Matthew 5:48**). And as such, He provides for His children perfectly. He provides for our physical needs (**Matthew 7:11**), He provides for our spiritual direction (**Psalms 73:24**), He provides for us proper discipline (**Hebrews 12:5-6**), and He provides sympathetic love and compassion (**Psalms 86:3, 5, 15**).

This Father's Day, express your appreciation to your earthly father. But every day, express your appreciation to your Heavenly Father who provides us with all we need.

Edd Sterchi