

# Father's Day –

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## Central Theme

### Outline

1. Today is Father's Day.
  - a. What is Father's Day about?
    - a.i. Buying cards and ties?
    - a.ii. Guys, if we're lucky, maybe getting power tools?
  - b. Father's Day was created to compliment Mother's Day.
    - b.i. Dads, we play catchup with Moms.
      - b.i.1. Father's Day was made a national holiday 58 years after Mother's Day.
    - b.ii. We go to practice & the games.
    - b.iii. When they make the catch in the big game and a camera is put in their face, what do they say?
      - b.iii.1. "Hi Mom!"
2. A day to honor our fathers.
  - a. Not all of us had good fathers.

### 2 Corinthians 6:18 (AV)

And [God] will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- b. God wants to be a Father to us.
  - b.i. Even if you didn't have a good father on earth, you have a perfect Father in heaven!
  - b.ii. But what does He expect from us?

### 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (AV)

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- c. He tells us we are to separate ourselves from the world.
  - c.i. Does that mean, like monks, we should cloister ourselves?
    - c.i.1. No, God tells us to love our neighbor & to help the needy.
  - c.ii. We are to be different.
    - c.ii.1. Act different.
    - c.ii.2. Live different.
    - c.ii.3. Be a peculiar people.

### 1 Peter 2:9 (AV)

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

d. But wait, what was the "Wherefore" there for?

### **2 Corinthians 6:16 (AV)**

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- d.i. Because God said He would dwell with us and be our God and we His people.
- d.ii. We are to separate ourselves because we are His people.
- d.iii. And He says not only will He dwell with us and be our God, but He will be our Father!

3. But what is a good father? A Godly father?

### **Matthew 3:9 (AV)**

And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

- a. Sometimes we think of our father as merely the man who conceived us.
  - a.i. Yes, there is a biological component to fatherhood, but it is so much more.
    - a.i.1. Studies show that children use their father as a standard.
      - a.i.1.a. Girls will look for men who remind them of their Dad.
      - a.i.1.b. Boys will pattern their lives after their fathers.
    - a.i.2. This is why the destruction of the family has preceded the destruction of society.
      - a.i.2.a. But even if society has said there is no need for Dad, Scripture says you still have a father in heaven!

### **Psalms 68:5 (AV)**

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, *is* God in his holy habitation.

- a.i.3. Even if your father is gone, you have a Father in heaven.
  - a.i.3.a. Girls, you should be looking for a man like your heavenly father.
  - a.i.3.b. Boys, you should look to emulate your heavenly father.
  - a.i.3.c. Fathers, you should be striving to be an example like our father in heaven.
- a.ii. Our deeds can tell a lot about the father we are emulating.

### **John 8:41-42 (AV)**

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

- b. The Jews claimed that since they were biological descendants of Abraham they were children of God.
  - b.i. I once thought that since my paternal grandparents were Jews they were OK with God.
  - b.ii. God being our Father is not a biological question, but a spiritual one.
    - b.ii.1. If we claim to be born again, who is our spiritual father?
    - b.ii.2. We call each other brother or sister, but do we live like God is our Father and therefore we are brothers & sisters.
      - b.ii.2.a. As a child, I fought with my sister all the time, but nobody else was allowed to pick on her!
  - b.iii. If God is our Father, then we would Love Jesus.
    - b.iii.1. If we love Jesus, we would act that way.

#### **John 14:15 (AV)**

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

- b.iii.2. Do we keep His commandments?
- b.iii.3. Do we act like children of God?
- b.iii.4. Would our Father be proud of what we've done?
  - b.iii.4.a. Or are we relying on our history, our church membership, as a substitute for acting like God's children?

4. What about our relationship with God the Father?

#### **Luke 11:2 (AV)**

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

- a. We know that God is Jesus' Father.
  - a.i. But here Jesus tells us that God is OUR Father.
  - a.ii. When we pray like this we are reminded of this fact.
  - a.iii. But do we treat God as our perfect father or just a kindly old man in the sky we ask for gifts?

#### **Matthew 23:9 (AV)**

And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

- b. Why are we not to call [give the name or title] of father to anyone on earth?
  - b.i. The term father is not just an ancestor but a progenitor.
    - b.i.1. The Jews called Abraham their father, not just their ancestor but the first person God made a covenant with.

- b.i.1.a. Abraham was the beginning of a holy people.
  - b.i.1.a.i. The God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.
- b.i.1.b. Abraham brought life to himself and his posterity.
- b.i.1.c. The Jews rely on this fact for their relationship with God.
- b.ii. If anyone should be in that position, it is God.
  - b.ii.1. My biological father gave me life; but my heavenly Father gave me eternal life.
  - b.ii.2. If anyone but God is in that position, they are an idol.

### **Matthew 5:48 (AV)**

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

- c. We are not perfect, and neither are our earthly fathers.
  - c.i. But God the Father is perfect.
    - c.i.1. Just as a child emulates their father, we are called to be perfect like our Heavenly Father.
    - c.i.2. We are to strive to make our Father happy by being as perfect as we can be.
- 5. Do we remember that God our Father LOVES us!

### **Luke 11:11-13 (AV)**

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

- a. Jesus is pointing us to a comparison.
  - a.i. If us sinful fathers give good gifts to our children, how much more our perfect Father in heaven.
    - a.i.1. Yet how often do we question what God provides to us?
      - a.i.1.a. Why would God let this happen?
      - a.i.1.b. Why doesn't God answer my prayers?
    - a.i.2. If God gives good gifts, then God's answers are good.
      - a.i.2.a. Even if they aren't the answers we want or in the timeframe we'd like.

### **Romans 8:28 (AV)**

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

- a.i.2.b. Do you trust that this is so?
  - a.i.2.b.i. Can I trust when I am going through difficulties?
- 6. How are we to act as fathers?

### **Ephesians 6:1-3 (AV)**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

- a. We all remember "children obey your parents", especially when they don't! But do we remember the rest?

### **Ephesians 6:4 (AV)**

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

- a.i. Does that mean parents shouldn't do anything the children don't like?
  - a.i.1. No, we are not to "provoke" our children.
  - a.i.2. [*parorgizo* /par-org-**id**-zo/]
    - a.i.2.a. to rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger.
  - a.i.3. If we never disciple our children Scripture says we hate them.

### **Proverbs 13:24 (AV)**

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

- a.i.4. I've looked up the greek, and the word means HATE.

### **Proverbs 23:13 (AV)**

Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

- a.ii. We are not to provoke to wrath.
  - a.i.1. There's a difference between discipline and provocation.
    - a.i.1.a. Discipline involves preparing others.
    - a.i.1.b. Provocation involves destroying others.
- a.iii. If we are to obey our earthly fathers, should we not obey our heavenly father?
  1. And if we as fathers are not to provoke our children, do we think that God would provoke us?
  2. If we are to correct our children, do we think God would not correct us?
  3. Does this mean that everything "bad" that happens is the consequence of our sin?
    - a.i.1.a. No, but we should not be surprised when our chickens come home to roost.

2. In America, Father's Day is an annual reminder to honor our fathers.

- a. As followers of Christ, every day should be a day we honor our heavenly Father.
  - a.i. Recognize that being a child of God is more than a membership in some organization.
  - a.ii. Using God as an example of how to live our lives.

- a.ii.1. Even if we are not perfect, we should strive to be.
    - a.iii. Remembering that God will turn all things to good, IF we follow him.
  - b. As believers, let's make Father's Day more than a day of ties, tools & time with our earthly fathers.
    - b.i. Let us make it a time to rededicate ourselves to our heavenly Father.