

EVERY DAY IS FATHERS' DAY
Psalm 127:3-5

Introduction:

1. Today is set aside to honor fathers!
2. It is an occasion to reflect upon the important role of fathers.
3. Every day should be fathers' day!
 - a. A Gallup Poll reveals 79 % of Americans believe our greatest social problem is the departure of fathers from the home.
 - b. The Poll also showed 90% agree that fathers have a vital role that cannot be filled by anyone else!

Discussion:

I. GOD IS THE FATHER OF ALL.

A. God created man of the dust of the earth (Gen. 2:7).

1. Man was made in God's image (Gen. 1:27).
2. Man has a spirit as God is Spirit (John 4:24).
3. He is the "Father of our spirits" (Heb. 12:9).
4. At death our spirits return to Him (Eccl. 12:7).

B. God is the perfect Father.

1. He loves His children.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this was the love of God manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:7-10).

2. He provides for his children.

"Nevertheless, He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17).

3. He disciplines His children.

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives" (Heb. 12:5,6).

4. He expects respect and obedience from His children

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is my reverence? says the Lord of hosts” (Mal. 1:6).
5. He trains His children.
 - a. Through Providence as with Joseph and Moses.
 - b. By means of His Word (Heb. 4:12).
6. He wants His children to follow His example.

“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:15, 16).

II. EARTHLY FATHERS MUST BE LIKE THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER.

- A. Fathers must love their children.
 1. This should be a “given.”
 2. The idea for “Fathers’ Day” came from Sonora Dodd in 1909; her father, William Smart, lost his wife when she gave birth to their sixth child; He raised his six children on his own. His devotion and love inspired his daughter.
- B. Fathers must provide for their children’s needs.
 1. “If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Tim. 5:8).
 2. Provision includes more than financial support.
- C. Fathers must discipline their children.
 1. God disciplines us because He loves us.

“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons” (Heb. 12:7, 8).
 2. Discipline is an act of love.

“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly” (Prov. 13:24).
- D. Fathers must require respect and obedience from their children.
 1. The Law of Moses said: “Honor your father and your mother” (Exod. 20:12).
 2. The law of Christ also commands children to obey their

parents.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and your mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth” (Eph. 6:1-3).

3. William Safire in “What Fathers Want” wrote:

“We want our intrinsic authority back... as far as most kids are concerned, the sources of parental power are not the same. Motherpower is rooted in love, fatherpower in authority...Mothers are better at nurturing. Fathers are better at laying down the law...the lack of a father figure in so many broken homes, or single mother families, is a major cause of troubled youth” (Commercial Appeal; Memphis; June 19, 1994).

E. Fathers must train their children.

- 1. Fathers are charged to “bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).**
- 2. According to one study, 78% of children in the US receive no religious instruction of any kind.**

F. Fathers must live so that their children can follow their example.

- 1. George Bailey said: “It is ridiculous to expect a child to follow your commands but ignore your example.”**
- 2. A poem illustrates the importance of a good example:**

**“Walk a little plainer, Dad,” said a little boy so frail.
“I’m following in your footsteps, and I don’t want to fail.
Often your steps are plain, but sometimes they are hard to see,
So walk a little plainer, Dad, for you are leading me.”**

**“I know that once you walked this way many years ago,
And what you did along the way, I’d really like to know;
For sometimes when I’m tempted, I don’t know what to do;
So walk a little plainer, Dad, for I must follow you.”**

**“Someday when I’m grown up, you are what I want to be.
Then I will have a little boy who tries to follow me.
I want to lead him right and help him to be true.
So walk a little plainer, Dad, for we must follow you.”**

Conclusion:

- 1. Fathers must assume their responsibilities!**
- 2. The influence of fathers can determine the child’s future in this life and in that to come!**
- 3. The first step in becoming a better father is by becoming a Christian.**

