

Ephesians 6:1-4
2011
2 Corinthians 5:18
Sun.)

Thank You Dad!

June 19th,
(Father's Day

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother – this is the first commandment with a promise” (Ephesians 6:1-2).

A small boy said, “Father’s Day is just like Mother’s Day, only you don’t spend as much on the gift.” Happy Father’s Day! On this special day, I honor all fathers and appreciate what you have done for your family. Your hard work, devotion, and sacrifice are deeply appreciated.

“Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. “Honor your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, “so you will live well and have a long life.” Fathers, don’t exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master” (*The Message Bible Translation*).

Through today’s Scriptural reading, we can find ourselves having two different responsibilities as children and especially fathers: Honor your father and mother, and fathers are told about how to nurture their children in terms of giving them good discipline and instruction in the Lord.

Who Are the Fathers?

In our society, in my view father’s role is decreasing; on the contrary, mother’s role is increasing. That is to say, mother’s voice at home is stronger than that of father. Who is the decision-maker at your home regarding family matters – mother, father, or children?

Nevertheless, the role of father is still important and influential in bringing their children up. Children learn how their fathers behave; they see what their parents are doing and follow them. Parenting or fathering is a blessing and at the same time an awesome responsibility.

God First

In that sense, Scripture says, “Take them (children) by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.” Scripture tells that fathers need to be good role models and have a loving attitude to their children in the Lord. Those words apply to all fathers – biological fathers, stepfathers, church fathers to all kids.

Here is the sad confession of one father. “I took my children to school but not to church. I taught them to drink but not of the living water. I enrolled them in Little League but not Sunday School. I showed them how to fish but not to be fisher of men. I made the Lord’s Day a holiday, rather than a holy day. I taught them the church was full of hypocrites and made the greater hypocrite of them and me. I taught them how to make a living but failed to bring them to Christ who alone can make a life.”

The story is told of a young man who stood before a judge to be sentenced for forgery. The judge had been a friend of the boy's father, who was famous for his books on the law of trusts. "Young man," said the judge sternly, "do you remember your father, that father whom you have disgraced?"

"I remember him perfectly," the young man answered quietly. "When I went to him for advice or companionship, he would say, "Run away, boy. I'm busy." Well, my father finished his book, and here I am." (This story tells how a father affects his son's life badly; father's careless words hurt his child and eventually destined his son's life.).

As much as we honor our fathers, respecting and remembering their lives, we also need to be a good role model and have loving attitude to our children by God's help.

Thank Your Dad!

What images come up in your mind when you remember your dad? The answer might be different depending on your own experiences with your dad: loving, caring, protective, humorous, strong, stubborn, hard-working, sacrificial, patriotic, painful, and so on. No matter what good or bad memories you have, you and I can thank God for our fathers. Because of our fathers, we came into the world; we live a beautiful life filled with love and grace coming from our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we can honor our fathers with the deep sense of gratitude. (Jean Alsko's staff. Her father protects her as an angel)

I would like to ask a question to you: Have you ever seen your dad crying? While I was growing up, my dad taught me not to cry: "Boys, don't show your tears!" I also have never seen my dad crying in front of his family. But fathers cry silently from their hearts or alone.

How can you celebrate and honor Father's Day? I know that many among you have fathers that have already returned to Heaven, but we can still honor our fathers from our hearts:

First, give your dad big hug. You can give your hug from your heart to your dad who passed away. My dad is not a hug person. I have never remembered that my dad hugged me throughout my life time. (Korean culture is not a hug culture, but I learned hugging when I came to America.) One day I realized that I wanted to hug him so I hugged him. (He smiled and looked happy!)

Second, recognize him by complimenting a few things. Dads or men want to be complimented from his wife or children for not what something big they had done, but something small. Try to find out small things, and express your thanks for what they had done for you and for your home.

Third, pray for your dad or husband. He also needs your spiritual support. Men are often weak, although they pretend to be strong.

Fourth, do not criticize your dad or husband in front of your children or at the public place. That makes him hurt. Any father wants to be respected from their children, although he knows of his own mistakes.

Fifth, give God thanks for your dad and appreciate him. No matter what I feel about my dad, I became who I am by being nurtured by my earthly dad.

**Our heavenly Father showed us what love is and how much He loves us by sending his son Jesus Christ to us. In Jesus Christ God reconciled us to Him and made a peaceful relationship with us. God also desires for us to reconcile with others, especially with earthly fathers if you have not yet done so. May God's overflowing peace and love abide in you as we honor our earthly fathers on this special day. May it be so by God's help. Amen.
Happy Father's Day!**

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Five Tips to Celebrate Father's Day:

First, give your dad big hug.

Second, recognize him by complimenting a few things.

Third, pray for your dad or husband.

Fourth, do not criticize your dad or husband in front of your children or at the public place.

Fifth, give God thanks for your dad and appreciate him.