



FATHER'S DAY SERMON

NOTES

fa-ther (fä' ther)

- **a.** A male person whose sperm unites with an egg, resulting in the conception of a child.
- **b.** A man who adopts a child.
- c. A man who raises a child.

Someone once said 'It takes a few seconds to father a child but a life time to be a Father'

'I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection'

Sigmund Freud

'It was my father who taught me to value myself. He told me that I was uncommonly beautiful and that I was the most precious thing in his life'

Dawn French

Fatherhood is worth celebrating. It's part of God's strategy together with a Mother in creating an environment of love, acceptance, belief and security. Many would say that the role of the father is not really necessary but research shows over and over again that when a father is present and bringing a positive influence in a child's life there is an increase in self esteem, greater discipline and respect and preparation for the real world – (See Top 20 reasons why Dads are important below)

Throughout scripture the importance of a father's presence in his children's lives just keeps coming up. It should reflect something of the Father heart of God for His children. In gently teaching and correcting us, God sets a foundation for parenting and we would do well to hold on to His word.

'Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth'

Prov 4: 1-9

"The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him." **Proverbs 23:24**







One of the greatest gifts a father can give his child is time! Time spent playing, reading, talking, laughing. Children crave that attention and become downcast when it doesn't happen.

A little boy once asked his dad how much he earned per hour at work. The father who always seemed to be busy on a phone or a laptop was annoyed that his son should be asking him this question, '£40 per hour if you must know, now go to bed and stop bothering me' Later the father feeling that he was a little hard on his son, goes up to see him. As he comes to the door he hears his son praying, 'Lord I just need another £15 and then I can buy an hour of daddy's time'

We have a few short years to make an impact on our children that will set them up for life. Sadly many people today find themselves going down all kinds of wrong paths and often because they have either lacked the presence of a father figure in their early development or were subject to abuse or bad parenting.

"Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]"

Col 3:21 (Amp)

Some years ago staff at a maximum security prison in the States offered every man a card to write and send for Mothers Day. Every prisoner took a card. A few months later the same offer was made for Father's Day. Not one inmate collected a card from the office. What an indictment on the fathers of those young men.

How many lives have been ruined as a result of fathers abstaining from their roles? Sadly we just end up multiplying this through the next generation. What a responsibility we have to our children! As Wess Stafford – former CEO of Compassion International once said 'Every child you meet is a divine appointment'

Maybe today on Father's Day, this would be a good moment to re-commit to being a hero for our daughters and role models for our sons but not just to them, but where we can, to invest in other young lives.

Around the World many loving fathers despair that they cannot provide for their families because of the trap of poverty. Not just that but millions of children face the challenge of having to grow up very fast because of the lack of parenting. A father sick with HIV, an alcoholic father who beats his wife and kids. Fathers who have left home because they don't know how to feed their 10 children. Or maybe that child has never known a father in their life.

They may have stepped down from their responsibility but today will you step up, not just to that of your own children but to those of the poor. The Word says that 'He is a Father to the fatherless' and it's through His people, the Church, that He wants to express His Father heart. Today will you consider being a father to a child living in poverty and through sponsorship give that child options and a hope for the future.

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£25 per month, 83p per day, can provide an education, health care, socio-emotional and spiritual development, all the things a child looks to a father to provide. Not only that but the opportunity to encourage and influence that child through the writing of letters and sending of gifts and even visiting them in their home. Recently I met one of my sponsored children – Samrawit from Ethiopia. During the visit I learned that her dad had died when she was just 2yrs old. 'Will you be my father?' she asked. My response? 'Absolutely!'

"Don't you see that children are God's best gift,

the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?

Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth.

Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children!

Your enemies don't stand a chance against you; you'll sweep them right off your doorstep."

Psalm 127:3-5 (The Message)

Don't just leave a legacy in your own family, leave one for another that will equip them to stand against their enemy of poverty and break the hold.

Prayer! Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me so have I loved you' May we reflect that same love to those who look up to us and those we have the opportunity to influence. Amen!

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TIM ROBERTSON	NOTES
Top 20 reasons a fathers presence is vital.	
1. Lets your child know that you love him or her. Love is more than just saying, I love you. It is equally important to spend time doing things together. Children who feel loved are more likely to develop a strong emotional bond with their father and a healthy self-esteem.	
2. Provides your child with greater financial resources. Research shows that families with an active father are usually better off financially. Their children are more likely to have access to resources that support healthy development, such as food, clothing, shelter and quality medical care.	
3. Provides your child with a positive male role model. Children, regardless of gender, need positive male and female role models in their lives. Involved fathers promote positive behaviours by setting a proper example for their children.	
4. Provides your children with emotional support. Children need emotional support from their parents. It is important that fathers listen and support their children when they experience joy, sadness, fear and frustration. When fathers support their children emotionally, their children are more in tune with the needs of others.	
5. Enhances your child's self-esteem. Children tend to be happier and more confident when their fathers are actively involved in their lives.	
6. Enhances your child's intellectual development. Children who are raised with actively involved fathers tend to score higher on measures of verbal and mathematical ability, and also demonstrate greater problem-solving and social skills.	
7. Provides your child with guidance and discipline. Active fathers play an important role in teaching their children proper behaviour by setting and enforcing healthy limits.	
8. Gives your child someone to play with. One of the best ways for fathers to bond with their children is through play. Researchers say there are definite differences in the ways father and mothers play with their children. Fathers tend to use a more physical style of play that benefits children in many ways, including enhanced cognitive ability.	
9. Provides your child with someone to talk to when they have questions. Involved fathers can be valuable sources of information for children who are seeking answers to life's important questions.	
10. Increases your child's chances for academic success. Involved fathers support their children's academic success, and the benefits appear to extend even into adulthood.	
11. Provides your child with an alternative perspective on life. Research suggests men and women often differ in their parenting styles. It can be healthy for children to be exposed to different perspectives on life.	
12. Lowers your child's chances for early sexual activity. Children with actively involved fathers are less likely to engage in early sexual activity, thus reducing the chances of teen	



pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.





13. Lowers your child's chances for school failure. Children are less likely to drop out of school when their fathers are involved.	NOTES
14. Lowers your child's chances for youth suicide. Children with actively involved fathers are less likely to commit suicide than children with uninvolved fathers.	
15. Lowers your child's chances for juvenile delinquency. The benefits of having an active father in the early years extend into the teen years. Children with active fathers are less likely to commit juvenile crimes.	
16. Lowers your child's chances for adult criminality. The chances your child will commit crimes as an adult also diminish when he grows up with an actively involved father.	
17. Provides your child with a sense of physical and emotionally security. When fathers are involved, children develop a sense of security (emotionally and physically). A trust relationship is developed and the child does not have to worry about being abandoned.	
18. Facilitates your child's moral development. Children need a moral compass to guide them when they face difficult moral issues. Fathers, like mothers, help children to develop a sense of right and wrong that serves as a foundation for establishing moral character.	
19. Promotes a healthy gender identity in your child. Boys and girls benefit from having healthy role models of both sexes. Research points out that mothers and fathers socialize their children in different ways. Fathers can help their children, especially boys, develop a healthy sense of what it means to be male.	
20. Helps your child learn important life skills. Most of the essential life skills children will need to survive are learned in the home. Fathers have a unique opportunity to teach their children valuable skills that will enable them to grow up to be healthy and productive adults.	
SOURCES: Stephen d. Green, Ph.D., Child Development Specialist, Texas Co-operative Extension, 20 Reasons Why Your Child Needs You To Be An Active Father, October, 2000.	
Wade. F. Horn, David Blankenhorn, and Mitchell B. Pearlstein (Eds.) The Fatherhood Movement: A Call to Action. New York: Lexington Books	
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