



The Good News

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Father's Day 2021

By Michael McCleary

Today is a day that has been set aside by our society to celebrate and honor our fathers or those who filled the role of a father in our lives. It was started by Grace Clayton, who lost her father right before the Monongah Mining Disaster in 1907. It left over a thousand children fatherless. She suggested that these men be honored. The observation of Father's Day has been in existence in some form ever since and eventually was recognized as an official holiday by Richard Nixon in 1972. It is a day on which we reflect how valuable these men have been in our development and progress as we grow in our lives and experiences. The wisdom and guidance that these men provide cannot be understated. Consider with me some of these characteristics of godly fathers:

They seek to be proper examples, putting Christ first: Paul told Timothy to teach the men who would be elders and deacons to "rule his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence" (1 Tim. 3:4,12). While these characteristics apply to men who would be elders and deacons, the application shows the need for fathers to set the example of placing Christ and God first in the home. If the father is submissive to God and places His service first in all things, then it sets the tone for the entire family.

They discipline us for our benefit: Our earthly fathers often discipline us when we are young, and even as we age, so that we can know the proper course our lives should take. Solomon reminded his "sons" in **Prov. 22:15** and **23:13** that the rod of correction is needed for children. Solomon writes in **Prov. 13:24**, "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly." The disciplining of children from a father should be from a place of love, and especially with a mind on their soul's well-being. Paul says in **Eph. 6:4** that fathers are to

raise their children "in the training and admonition of the Lord."

They love their children always, even when they make mistakes: A wonderful example of this is the parable of the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11-24**. The son of a rich man took his inheritance, ran away, and spent it all on extravagant living. Eventually he ran out of funds, to the point that he was even eating the food that the swine ate. He finally came to his senses and decided to return to his father and ask that he be made a lowly servant. As he neared his father house, his father saw him and ran to him and kissed him. He rejoiced that his son had returned. Every godly father will always love their children, no matter what. There may be certain actions that the child must take to get back into a stable relationship, such as changing a course of action and making amends, but the desire to care for that child will always be there. God is the same, as we see in this example of the Prodigal Son. God is always there for us, no matter what. All we have to do is follow what He says.

Let us always appreciate our godly fathers and other individuals who help to train us up in the way that is right in God's sight. Even more importantly, let us always cling to the Heavenly Father, realizing that our future in Heaven depends on our reverence and obedience to His Word.