The Dad Your Called to Be

Genesis 18:19a

6/19/22

*Genesis 18:19a*

*I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just*...

Happy Father’s Day!

Whether you are a father or you are celebrating the life or the memory of your father this morning, I hope that you are having a great Father’s Day. Let me say this and may it be one of the things that you remember this morning...

* If you have or had a great Father, give God praise this morning, because that is a blessing from God.
* If you feel that you did not or do not have a great Father, remember that your heavenly father will never let you down.

I want to bring a Father’s Day message & I want you to see this morning that your heavenly Fathers love comes untainted, trustworthy, and unmerited. It is not based on your performance but on His love. Our heavenly Father...Loves, Instructs, Provides, Protects, Encourages, Disciplines, Forgives, Cares & Blesses.

It doesn’t take us long to understand why, as dads we sometimes fall short of such a list of responsibilities to our family. But the goal as a man, and Godly Dad, is to strive to become dads reflecting our Heavenly Father. This morning I want to look at, are we the dads we’ve been called to be?

* Are we the dad God is expecting us to be?
* Are we acting in the role as dad that our families need?
* Are we doing these things I just listed?

Dad...You are so needed and valuable today; To the Kingdom of God, to your church, but most important, to your family, and even more so today...It doesn’t matter if you have young children, teenagers, or grown adults...YOU ARE VALUEABLE & NEEDED! The desire for God and His direction in leading your family through this insane time we’re living in now is needed now more than ever.

It doesn’t take bifocals to notice that our society is doing everything it can to eliminate Dad. They’ve been trying for years to get into your homes and tell your children that their parents are wrong on how they’re teaching. Especially in the past few months where they’re trying to tell your kids...YOUR KIDS...they can be what they want....not a fireman or doctor, but a girl can be a boy and a boy can be a girl...We’ve known for years that the world has attacked the family, and we’ve done nothing to stop it and here’s where we are today...Dads...TODAY IT MUST STOP AND IT STARTS WITH YOU!

Whether you choose to believe this or not, Dads set the tone for their household. How you tick, is how the family will tick. Dad must follow God as an example for his family.

* Joshua 24:15 - But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve.... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

What is a dad?

Websters dictionary defines a dad as “A Male Parent”

* A dad's role is to be there for their children in every way they need their dad. A dad's role is to provide loving, caring support to the family and helps his children flourish as they grow into a mentally healthy, stable adulthood
* A dad is more than a man who had a “one night stand” and said see you later. That doesn’t qualify you for a dad...You’re just a donor.
* A dad is more than someone who just pays a monthly amount of money to the mother and never see the child

What Does God say dads should do?

* Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."

So, what does it take for us to be the dad God has called us to be? Well, we need to be consistent in 3 areas our lives.

* Consistent in presence
* Consistent in our words & actions
* Consistent in our commitment to the Lord
	+ The truth is that all good parenting begins with a fear of the Lord.
	+ Proverbs 14:26 Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children.

**Consistent in Presence**

Dad, more than ever in the history of mankind has there been a need for you to be present in your families’ lives, especially in your children’s lives. We see in Psalms 139 where David is talking to God and say I can never escape your presence! If I go to the mountains, you’re there, if I go the bottom of the sea, you’re there! God is ever present and wants to be involved in every portion of our lives. This is exactly what we are to be to our families and our children dads. Ever present.

* 17.4 million children lived in fatherless homes according to the statistics of fatherless homes in Jan 2021, this amounted to almost a quarter of all American children — more precisely, 23.6%.
* Research shows that a father-absent childhood can significantly affect the children’s perception of life, as well as their life choices later on.
* Statistics on absent fathers show that 7 million American dads were absent from the life of all their minor children.
* Divorces are one of the leading causes of fatherless homes.

Here’s the thing, life is not perfect. Though I believe that with Gods help divorce, in many situations can be avoided, but unfortunately, there may be times where it can’t. But parents, it’s not the child’s fault you can’t figure it out. And so many times the kids are the ones who get the brunt of a divorce with parents, specifically dads who just say “see ya”! Even if this happens, you need to be sure to keep your child 1st and be there!

But aside from that situation, homes that have both parents, children still don’t come 1st. Many time we as dads are tired when we come home from work, and the 1st thing we want to do is sit down for a minute and catch our breath. But then when we open our front door, here comes the kids! Do you know how awesome your presence is? We all want to be rock stars and popular...how much more of a rock star can you be than Dad? You are their world. Be there for your children, your wife. Be there for every ball game, every school event, listen to every story. “But I need ME time” I get it. Get up earlier than anyone and have “Your Time”, preferably with God.

One last thing on the “presence” Being there physically, with your face stuck on your phone” isn’t “being there”. Show your children you’re interested in what their “going through” whether they are 5, 15, or 25. Be there always for your family as God is with us!

**Consistent in our Words & Actions**

To be the dad God desires us to be we need to ensure that our words and our actions are in line with God and with each other

* Numbers 23:19 tells us that *“God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?”*

Dads, we need to understand today how impactful our words and actions are to our wives & to our kids.

***Words – Words are very powerful***

* How you speak to your family will either lift them up or tear them down
	+ *Eph. 4:29 -* *Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

Dad, you have the power in your tongue to empower your young child, encourage and uplift your teenager, and influence and inspire your grown kids! How you speak to your wife is being watched: Are you speaking life or death into your family?

* + Sons will think that’s the way you speak to women and their wife if married
	+ Daughters will think this is normal for them and when spoken to this way when older and married will allow this speech to break her

*Proverbs 15:4 - A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but a sinful tongue crushes the spirit.*

***Actions – Actions speak LOUDER than Words***

* Even though words are powerful, our actions are even more important!
	+ *Col. 3:17 - And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.*
	+ *Col. 3:23 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,*

We need to be sure that our actions are fitting our words, and our words fit our actions. We say and do what we say and do. (Ex. Say, I love you, but actions show they annoy you)

Dad’s this is huge as kids are always listening and watching. You are the example. Let your words and actions be Godly, so they see how a man of God walks, talks, and acts and then learn to walk the same way.

**Consistent in our Commitment to the Lord**

* *Deut. 6:5 - And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*
* *Titus 1:16 –They say they know God, but by the way they act, they show that they do not. They are sinful people. They will not obey and are of no use for any good work.*

**(4) A father should be praying for his children.**

Dad, you will only be able to take your children as far as you are-

If you are not praying for them and with them- you cannot expect them to be praying and seeking the things of God if they do not see you doing it by example.

* John 17, the priestly prayer of Jesus to the Father for his children- John 17:1-19 read from Bible and clearly and slowly

Praying is not the last thing we do as a parent; it has to be the first thing we do as parents.

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Closing,

Father Day is tough for some. Those that did not have a great father. Those that are morning the loss of a father. For you this morning, my prayer is that the heavenly Father will be your heavenly Father and give you what your earthly father was not or cannot be now. We need to understand that we can trust God with our lives and our families. He can be what is needed, and he can help us be what we need to be.

You cannot be selfish in caring for those that God has entrusted to you.

The Lord wants to do a work of reconciliation in the lives of fathers and children this morning.

He wants to remove bitterness and hurts and un-forgiveness which caused separation from God the Father and human fathers and children.

This morning, I am praying that the anointing of God be released into your special circumstance this morning. If one is here, I pray that they would have the strength and courage to make this relationship right. I pray this morning that if you are mad at God that you right where you are would make it right. Today that you would not leave without restoring or beginning a relationship with Him.

If you have never acknowledged Jesus as Lord that you would do that by asking Him to forgive your sins, acknowledging Him as Lord now of your life, and deciding today that you will live for Him and allow him to speak to the things going on in your life.

This would make it the best Father’s Day ever! Amen.