

Father's Day
A Father's Calling
Deuteronomy 6:6-9



2025.06.15
A topical message for Father's Day

1. Intro
 - 1.1 Open the **Deuteronomy 6**
 - 1.2 It's Father's Day - between books and Pastor Rick is recovering
 - 1.2.1 Topical message
 - 1.3 Some people view this kind of message as problematic
 - 1.3.1 Downplaying the role of a mother
 - 1.3.2 Pitting the influence of a father vs. that of a mother
 - 1.3.3 Can't be more wrong - the Bible has a lot to say about fathers
 - 1.3.3.1 It isn't hard to look into the world, even the church, and see that the role of the father needs to be talk about
 - 1.4 Exhort the men
 - 1.4.1 For the women, how to come alongside and encourage
 - 1.5 Read **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**
 - 1.6 Pray

2. Message
 - 2.1 Fathers are important
 - 2.1.1 Only crazy people will tell you otherwise - don't listen to them
 - 2.2 Some statistics

University of Pennsylvania

“Children who feel a closeness and warmth with their father are twice as likely to enter college, 75 percent less likely to have a child in their teen years, 80 percent less likely to be incarcerated and half as likely to show various signs of depression”

- 2.2.1 26 year long study

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

The number one factor in developing empathy in children was father involvement.

Fathers spending regular time alone with their children translated into children who became compassionate adults.

- 2.2.2 These are good things
 - 2.2.2.1 Less substance abuse, less depression
 - 2.2.2.2 We want our children to be compassionate - might disagree about what that means
 - 2.2.2.3 To be successful - might disagree about what that means
 - 2.2.2.4 To be empathetic - might disagree about what that means
- 2.2.3 Fathers have the ability to affect their children's lives in an even more meaningful way
- 2.3 Statistics about a father's faith
 - 2.3.1 Switzerland study

Father Regular - 38% (72%)

Father Irregular - 12% (59.6%)

Father Non-practising - 2.8% (33%)

- 2.3.2 Father's faith is the #1 contributor to a child's faith in adulthood
- 2.3.3 Father's faith (or lack-there-of) directly undermines the work of the mother

- 2.3.3.1 For a mother that regularly engaged in her faith
 - If the father did too, 33%
 - If the father was irregular, 3.4%
 - If the father was non-practising, 1.5%
- 2.4 Over the past few decades, the number of people attending church has declined
 - 2.4.1 Decrease in faith corresponds to an increase of fatherlessness
 - 2.4.1.1 Correlation or causation?
- 2.5 What does this mean?
 - 2.5.1 Fathers have a special calling - emulate the spiritual life they want their children to have
 - 2.5.1.1 Regardless of your own upbringing
- 2.6 Where to start?
 - 2.6.1 If the role of the father is so vital to the child's view of God - that's too precious
 - 2.6.1.1 How do I protect that?
 - 2.6.1.2 Anxiety inducing
 - 2.6.1.3 Have to start in the right place
 - 2.6.2 God loves you

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- 2.6.2.1 He sent His Son to break the bondage of power and sin, to bring us back to Him
- 2.6.3 If you believe in Jesus, you are a child of God

1 John 3:1a

¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

- 2.6.3.1 You have a Father - all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, unchanging
- 2.6.4 He loves you

John 17:23b

²³ ...and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- 2.6.4.1 He is attentive to your needs

Matthew 6:8b

⁸ ...your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

- 2.6.4.2 He teaches and corrects you

Hebrews 12:7

⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

- 2.6.4.3 He will comfort you

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2.6.4.4 He gives good gifts

Matthew 7:11

¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

2.6.4.5 He is unchanging - these promises from Him are certain

2 Corinthians 1:20a

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen...

2.6.4.6 This is where fathers needs to start - knowing that we have God the Father and His love

2.7 Our church recognizes the importance of fathers

2.7.1 We operate and make decisions with this at the forefront of our minds

2.7.2 Here's our church's vision:

To glorify God by helping strong, healthy, Christ-centered families who are led by God to build world-changing, Spirit-filled churches.

2.7.3 A Christ-centered family begins with the father

2.7.3.1 His contribution to the spiritual life of the family cannot be understated

2.7.3.2 Why men's ministry is so important

- We have other ministries - all sorts of situations

2.7.4 We cannot hope to have an impact on the world if it doesn't start with father

2.8 Our church has a certain set of values - ways we see the world to help guide our ministry

2.8.1 The first value:

Every man a priest.

2.8.2 What is a priest?

2.8.2.1 General definition - the one who can perform the rites of a religion, approach god

2.8.3 The True God, since He sent His Son, views the priesthood differently

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...

2.8.3.1 All believers are called priests - we can approach God and administer His truth and read and teach the Holy Scriptures

2.9 A man is called to be the spiritual leader of his home - over his children

2.9.1 Deuteronomy - teaching his children about God

2.9.2 Colossians and Ephesians - being delicate with a child's heart

2.9.2.1 Do not provoke or embitter, discourage

2.9.3 A father, as a believer, can approach God

- 2.9.3.1 No special priest is needed, we are all priests
- 2.9.4 His responsibility is to pass this knowledge to his children
 - 2.9.4.1 That they can approach God
 - 2.9.4.2 Until they are able to on their own, he will act as their priest
- 2.10 This is a huge task- to be undertaken by the father
 - 2.10.1 Many mothers play this role
 - 2.10.1.1 Often out of necessity because the father won't
 - 2.10.1.2 Sometimes out of order
 - 2.10.2 Daunting task in some respects - that's why it's important that we hear this exhortation
 - 2.10.2.1 Fathers - it is your calling to live the example of intimate fellowship with God
 - Their decision later in life is not your responsibility
 - But we know that our influence is critical
 - 2.10.2.2 In many ways, we are also emulating the character of God
 - Our influence will inform and affect the way our children view God
 - 2.10.2.3 How in the world can I do that correctly?
 - He is perfect, all-knowing, all-powerful, patient, filled with grace, steadfast
- 2.11 We are not called to be God, but to teach them who He is
 - 2.11.1 I can't be all those things, I am far from them
 - 2.11.2 But I can bring them to the One who is
 - 2.11.2.1 When I don't know the answer to life's question, I bring them to God who imparts wisdom
 - 2.11.2.2 When I am powerless in life's circumstances, I bring them to God who carries them through it
 - 2.11.2.3 When I'm impatient, I point them to God who is not like man
 - 2.11.2.4 If I am inconsistent in discipline, I point them to the God of perfect justice
 - 2.11.2.5 If I am harsh or unkind, I remind them that God is gentle with His children
 - 2.11.3 I don't have to be perfect, I just show them what I have to do - I have to go to God
 - 2.11.3.1 I show them how often I have to do it - all the time
 - 2.11.3.2 I show them God's mercy by accepting forgiveness
 - 2.11.3.3 I show them God's grace by extending forgiveness to others
 - 2.11.4 I'm going to stumble and fall at times
 - 2.11.4.1 I need to teach my children that God is the only one who is unwavering
 - 2.11.4.2 No person can ever be their firm foundation
 - Not their friends, future spouse
 - Not teachers or even pastors
 - 2.11.4.3 Only through Christ who brings us into fellowship with God the Father
- 2.12 Maybe your kids are grown, does that mean you can retire?
 - 2.12.1 Adult children need guidance just as much
 - 2.12.2 The power of sin and darkness are pervasive
 - 2.12.2.1 So many things to distract us from seeking after God
 - 2.12.2.2 Satan prowls like a roaring lion seeking whom He may devour
 - 2.12.3 They are dealing with all of life's circumstances
 - 2.12.3.1 Maybe college, or work, kids of their own

- 2.12.3.2 They're new to all this stuff, just like you once were
- 2.12.3.3 Maybe you made it through on your own - doesn't mean they have to
- 2.12.4 You can look all around the church and find men who have let go of the reins
 - 2.12.4.1 They paid their dues, it's time to relax
 - 2.12.4.2 No! You need to continue in the path

Galatians 6:9a

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good...

- 2.13 Maybe you don't have children, or that relationship doesn't exist right now
 - 2.13.1 You can act as a spiritual father to someone who doesn't have that leadership
 - 2.13.1.1 Paul and Timothy, Peter and Mark
 - 2.13.2 Exercise your faith in the discipleship of the younger generations
- 2.14 For those who don't have a father to look to
 - 2.14.1 God is our Father

Psalm 68:5

⁵ A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.

- 2.14.2 God sits in heaven and sees what's missing
 - 2.14.2.1 This relationship that is supposed to be so special
 - 2.14.2.2 The order that He ordained as right
 - 2.14.2.3 His heart breaks for the pain and damage sin has caused
 - 2.14.2.4 He sits on His throne, looks upon you, and says "I am your Father"
- 2.14.3 If you were abandoned or hurt, if you never received what a father is supposed to give
 - 2.14.3.1 Father's day can be painful - remind you of the hole in your heart
 - 2.14.3.2 Many people in today's world run from that hurt
 - Churches teach that calling God "Father" hurts people, reminds them of the pain their fathers caused
- 2.14.4 God is the perfect Father
 - 2.14.4.1 Our hearts can be healed by the love that the Father bestows on us
 - 2.14.4.2 We don't have to live in bondage to the sin of an earthly father
 - 2.14.4.3 His Son was sent to conquer over sin and death
 - 2.14.4.4 The sacrifice that was given on our behalf reconciles us to our Father
 - 2.14.4.5 We are grafted into His family, as heirs and priests
- 2.15 Going back to the idea of spiritual fathers
 - 2.15.1 There are many people who could use a better earthly example
 - 2.15.2 Pastor Rick has been that for me
 - 2.15.2.1 Many hours spent with him talking about life
 - 2.15.2.2 I can't express how blessed I am because he is willing to have that relationship
- 3. Close
 - 3.1 Fathers, we have an important job
 - 3.1.1 Read **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**
 - 3.2 We don't do it on our own
 - 3.2.1 Our Father in heaven has given us everything we need, especially grace and mercy in times of need

- 3.3 For those who are trying their best, God bless you in it
- 3.4 For the women who come alongside the dads, I hope you can take from this and encourage him in seeking after God first
 - 3.4.1 Without Jamie helping me to take my blinders off, who knows where I'd be
- 4. Prayer and Last Song

<https://www.thescottsmithblog.com/2016/12/fathers-determine-their-childrens-faith.html>

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/family-qa/the-significance-of-a-fathers-influence/>