

Faithful Fathers (Deut. 6)

Pr. 20:6 *"most ..will proclaim their own goodness, but a faithful (ē mûn: trustworthy) man who can find?"*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Father's Day June 16th

Over the past century our society has transitioned away from being Patriarchal (*Father led*) to Matriarchal (*Mother led*) and finally to "Anarchal" (*Child centered*). This transition has been steadily fueled by the *"god of this world"* (2 Cor 4:4) for his own perverse purposes. (Mk 3:27)

In spite of the shifting sands of power and popularity, God still calls us to build our lives on the rock of His truths. His words through Jeremiah some 2700 years ago still echo from His heart:

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." (Jer 6:16)

We've been discussing Abraham over the past several weeks. God's testimony about him reveals that in spite of some personal problems and failures, God revealed His faith in Him:

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him," (Ge 18:19)

Fathers are the "Commanders in chief" of the little "armies" God has entrusted to their care. They are the "Point men" who are expected by God to go before our families and flush out the Danger in order to safely lead them in the ways of God. Let's take a new look at an old word that might help us stay in shape as *"good soldiers of Jesus Christ"*. (2 Tim 2:1-5)

The Word Father is used 352 times in the New Testament. 266 times it is used to describe God!

"The Heavenly Father" has called men (earthly Fathers) to be:

➤ *"The Goodman of the house"* (Pr 7:19, Mt 20:11; 24:43; Mk 14:14; Lk 12:39; 22:11)

OT (ʾîsh) Man, Champion NT (oikodespotēs) Leader

➤ *"The Strongman of the house"* (Mt 12:29; Mk 3:27) NT (ischyros') forceful, mighty, able

What a Sacred Honor and Awesome Responsibility to share such a description with our God!

Let's take a new look at an old word that might help us stay in shape as *"good soldiers of Jesus Christ"*.

(2 Tim 2:1-5) 1 Thess. 5:24 *"Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it!"*

F: FAITHFUL Deut. 6:1-9

1. Faithful to our heavenly Father and His purposes. Mal.1:6 *"A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?"* (kaw-bade' : to make weighty, valuable)

A. Notice the Order of Deut. 6

1) Listen: vs 3: *"Hear therefore (shama: understand {2 Tim. 2:15}) ...*

and observe (shamar: guard, protect) to do it (āšâ" to accomplish)

2) Love: 5 *"Thou shalt Love the Lord thy God..."*

3) Learn: 6 *"And these words, ...shall be in thine heart:"*

4) Lead: 7 *"thou (Fathers) shalt teach them diligently Unto thy children..."*

The Church is to be a support to the parents, (to Reinforce God's Plan/Priorities)

not a substitute! (to Relieve Parents from their responsibility)

Can God Trust you to "Hear", "Do" and then "Diligently Teach" his ways to your Family?

B. Examples of "Faithful Fathers": 1 Cor 10:11-13 *"written for ensamples and for our admonition"*

1) Abraham: Gen 18:19 *"I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD that the LORD may bring upon him that which he hath spoken"*

2) Moses; Numbers 12:7 *"My servant Moses ...is faithful in all mine house."* (1st mention)

OT: ʾāman: to build up or support; to foster; to render (or be) firm / faithful, permanent turn to the right.

NT: pistos: trustworthy; faithful, sure, true.

3) Samuel: 1Sam. 2:35 *"I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house"*

We tend to do according to what is in our own mind and heart!!!!

(4) Jesus: John 8:29 *"The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."*
 Luke 22:42 *"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."*
"Watch where Jesus went. The one dominant note in his life was to do his Father's will. His is not the way of wisdom or of success, but the way of faithfulness." Oswald Chambers

Faithfulness to God should motivate (and manifest in) us to be:

2. Faithful to our family:

Heb 3:2 *"Who (Jesus) was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house."*

Vs 5 *"And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant;,"*

1 Cor 4:2 *"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*

"It is better to be faithful than famous." -- Theodore Roosevelt

A. Our Heavenly bridegroom commands us to faithfully love and lead our wives.

Eph 5:25-33 25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it! 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 34 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

B. Our Heavenly Father has charged Fathers to accurately represent Him to their children. Ps. 126:1 *"Children are the heritage of the LORD"*

Pr 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go..."*

Eph 6:4 *"fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up (ektrephe'ō: cherish/train) in the nurture (paidei'a: educate/discipline) and admonition (nouthesia: rebuke/warning) of the Lord."*

Conclusion:

How do we demonstrate Faithfulness as Fathers: Dt. 6:3-7

"Hear therefore (God's Word) and observe to do it... thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart... soul... might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently (Shānan: to sharpen, whet) to thy children..."

Eccl 10:1 *"Dead flies cause the ointment ... to send forth a stinking savour:*

so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor..."

10 *If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct."* (See Pr. 2:6; 9:10)

Application: In what area of your responsibilities do you need to "sharpen the sword?"

- Listening to God: Dt 6:3 *"Hear therefore and observe to do it"* (God's commands)
- Loving God: Dt 6:5 *"Thou shalt Love the Lord thy God..."*
- Learning God: vs 6 *"these words which I command thee shall be in thine heart:"* (See Joshua 1:8)
- Leading your Family for God! Vs 7 *"thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..."*



Ron Dicianni

"To get his goodnight Kiss he stood, beside my chair one night.

And raised an eager face to me, a face with love alight.

And as I gathered in my arms, the son God gave to me;

I thanked the lad for being good, and hoped he'd always be.

His little arms crept 'round my neck, and then I heard him say;

Five simple words I can't forget, five words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul, on secrets no one knew.

They startled me, I hear them yet; He said, 'I'll be just like you!'"

Ph 1:6 *"he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it ..."*

Ph 2:13 *"it's God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

1 Th 5:24 *"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*

Will you let him? (1 Cor 3:9)

My hands were busy through the day; I didn't have much time to play
The little games you asked me to; I didn't have much time for you.
Sure, when you called, I'd take a look; But when you'd bring your picture book
And ask me please to share your fun; I'd say, "A little later, son."
I'd tuck you in all safe at night; And hear your prayers, turn out the light
Then tiptoe softly to the door; I wish I'd stayed a minute more.
For life is short, the years rush past; A little boy grows up so fast
No longer is he at your side; His precious secrets to confide.
The picture books are put away; There are no more games to play
No goodnight kiss, no prayers to hear – That all belongs to yesteryear.
My hands once busy now lie still; The days are long and hard to fill
I wish I might go back and do; The little things you asked me to.

Daddy had a little boy, His soul was white as snow.
He never went to Sunday School Cause Daddy wouldn't go.
He never heard the Word of God. That thrills the childish mind,
While other children went to class, This child was left behind.
As he grew from babe to youth, Dad saw to his dismay,
A soul that once was snowy white, Became a dingy grey.
Realizing that his son was lost, Dad tried to win him back.
But now the soul that once was white, Had turned an ugly black.
Dad even started back to church, and Bible study too;
He begged the preacher, "Isn't there a thing you can do?"
The preacher tried, failed, and said "We're just too far behind;
I tried to tell you years ago, But you would pay me no mind."
And so another soul was lost, That once was white as snow;
Sunday School would have helped, But Daddy wouldn't go.

Father's Day, contrary to popular misconception, was not established as a holiday in order to help greeting card manufacturers sell more cards. In fact when a "father's day" was first proposed there were no Father's Day cards!

Mrs. John B. Dodd, of Washington, first proposed the idea of a "father's day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across American other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day." In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

I took a piece of plastic clay, And idly fashioned it one day.
And as my fingers pressed it still, It moved and yielded to my will.
I came again when the days were passed, And the bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore, But I could change that form no more.
I took a piece of living clay, And gently formed it day by day;
And molded with my power and art, A young child's soft and yielding heart.
I came again when the days were gone, It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress wore, But I could change that form no more. Dave Stone

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. He wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for filling Chicago with everything evil. How did he keep himself out of jail? That is where his lawyer came into play. Big Al's lawyer was nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was excellent at keeping his boss out of jail and Al Capone paid him well. Eddie lived the high life and cared little for what happened around him. He only soft spot was his son. He gave his son everything. He tried to teach him right from wrong.

He wanted his son to be better than him. Yet, with all his wealth and influence there were two things he could not pass on to his son: a good name and a good example. One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. He wanted to rectify wrongs. He decided he would tell the truth about Al "Scareface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name and offer his son a semblance of integrity. To testify against the Mob would cost him a great price, but he testified.

Within a year Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire. In his eyes he gave his son the greatest gift he had to offer and it cost him his life.

World War II produced many heroes. One such was Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent out on a mission. After being airborne, Butch saw that his fuel gauge was low and knew someone had forgotten to top it off. He would not have enough fuel to complete the mission, and was commanded to return, but on his way back he saw a squadron of Japanese headed for the Americans.

The fighters were gone and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't get help in time. He had to divert the enemy from the American fleet. He dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber machine guns blazed as he charged in. He fired until he was empty and then began clipping wings with his own plane. The Japanese took off in a different direction and Butch O'Hare limped back to his carrier. Upon arrival he reported in and film from the gun camera showed the story. He had destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on Feb. 20, 1942 and for that action Butch became the first Naval Ace of WW II, and was awarded a congressional medal of honor. A year later at age 29, Butch was killed in action. His home town would not allow his memory to fade, and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in his tribute.

And by the way, Butch O'Hare was the son of Easy Eddie. I just thought you ought to know the influence of a father.