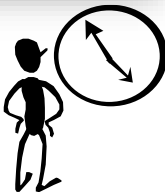


Inside this issue:

<i>Happy Father's Day</i>	1
<i>Let's Restore Fathers to Their Rightful Place</i>	2
<i>A.M. Sermon Outline:</i> Some Good Fatherly Advice	4
<i>Wisdom in Learning God's Commands</i>	6
Duty Rosters	7
Announcements & For the Record	8



Time of Assembly



Sunday:

Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.
(every other week)	

Wednesday:

Bible Study	6:30 p. m.
-------------	------------

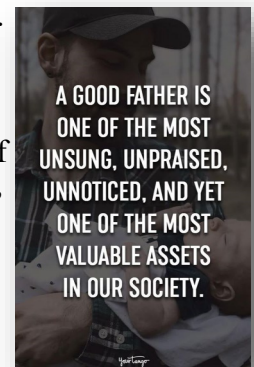
Happy Father's Day

By Bill Pierce

The origin of Father's Day seems to be with a daughter whose father was a Civil War Veteran who was widowed when his wife was giving birth to their sixth child. Her father, William Smart, was left to raise the infant and the other five children by himself. His daughter, Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was so awed by her father's love and devotion to his children, that she went to her preacher and asked him to have a church service in honor of fathers on June 5. This was too soon for him to prepare a lesson so he preached it on the third Sunday, June 19th. From then, the state of Washington celebrated the third Sunday in June for Father's Day. This was in 1909.

States and organizations began lobbying Congress to declare an annual Father's Day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson approved of this idea, but it was not until 1924 when President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd. Sunday of June as Father's Day and put the official stamp on a celebration that had been going on for almost half a century.

The Bible teaches that the father is the head of the family relationship. (Eph. 5:22-25; 6:1-4; Col. 3:21). Fathers have a big responsibility to set the right example of work ethics, love and respect to their wives, relationship with others in help, love, and forgiveness. We take our hats off to all fathers, especially those who are Christians, teaching and training their children in the love and obedience to the Lord!



Let's Restore Fathers to Their Rightful Place

By Tommy Thornhill

For the past few weeks we have been constantly bombarded through TV commercials and print media advertisement to remember “Father’s Day.” While it is a marvelous thing for families to take time to bestow more honor to fathers it would be much more gratifying to me if the time was being promoted to restore fathers to their rightful place in the family, to perform the God given roles assigned them when God first created man and woman. While I certainly appreciate any extra effort extended to me by my children on this day, I strenuously object to any effort that places “Father’s Day” in a religious setting. I know many churches will promote the observance of “Father’s Day” in their assemblies, but it will not be with God’s approval. I cannot find even one scripture where God ever ordained such a practice. The only father we are to honor religiously in any church assembly is our Father in heaven. This is what He expects us to do each time we assemble.

Even though God has not decreed any special day to honor fathers, He has instructed men how to be good fathers. Earthly fathers who follow Jehovah God’s word will not only be respected and honored here, they will also be honored by Him on the day of judgment with a home in heaven. Yet, many in the world today ignore and/or belittle man’s role as a father. Modern fathers, for the most part bear little resemblance to the fathers of past generations, and certainly not what God planned for them.

So, what is God’s plan for man? First, a male child is born. He then matures into a man. Then he chooses to become a husband, and finally a father. Here, a father’s role, as designed and defined by God, is to be the primary provider for the family, both physically and spiritually. A mother may do some of the things fathers do, but not like a father. The greatest mother cannot replace a good father in the home. Neither can boyfriends or other males. Fathers, in a special way, have the ability to provide their offspring with identity, character and competence. By providing a “name,” children are given identity. Without fathers, children have difficulty understanding who they are and what they ought to be like. To see the significance of this, talk to a child who doesn’t know who his/her father is, or where he is at, or his mother wearing another man’s name. Fathers are critical to the proper functioning of the family unit. By exercising his proper place as the head of the family, he brings stability, good leadership and spiritual guidance.

The role of the kind of father God intends is exemplified by Joshua’s public declaration to the nation of Israel. *“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your father served that were on the other side of the river; or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.”*

But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15). Joshua was not only providing spiritual guidance to his own family, he was also doing something else that fathers are expected to do, providing leadership for others. He spoke with the kind of resolve needed by fathers today. He was ready and willing to fulfill his duty to God and his family. He not only had the courage to speak for himself, he had the courage to speak for his family also. He had confidence that his family would follow his example. By providing spiritual leadership he showed he was God’s man, and also God’s leader in his family. Oh, how badly we need more husbands and father today who speak like Joshua. That is why I am writing this article. Let’s restore fatherhood to its rightful place in the world.

Many years ago, when I was a lot younger, there was a popular song that carried the phrase, “It’s nice to have a man around the house.” What has happened to that idea? It has been replaced by a society that has little or no respect for God, His Son, or His word. They seek to obliterate God’s design for the family where the man is the head with woman in a subordinate role (1 Cor. 11:1-3; Eph. 5:22-33). They think that if woman plays a subordinate role this makes her a slave. This concept is totally false (Gen. 2:18, 21-24; 1 Pet. 3:1-7). She is her husband’s helpmeet, a suitable companion, that complements him. In God’s plan they share the work, each operating in the role assigned to them by God. Together they make the home what God wants it to be, a viable foundation for building a godly, morally upright society. That is why there is such a great need to restore fathers to their rightful place in the home.

In today’s society the father figure counts for very little in the family system. Men are out of touch, confused and uncertain about their rightful place in the home as the head of the family. They are often seen only as progenitors (sperm donors) in creating a family, then relegated to just being a meal ticket. As a result many men (and this includes members of the Lord’s church) have abdicated their true role as a father, and are unwilling to accept a father’s responsibility in the home. They have listened too long to the cry of “Adam’s rib to women’s lib”—absolute equality with men, do the same work, have the same responsibilities, enjoy the same privileges, and earn the same pay. So they willingly step away from their God-given responsibilities. This is NOT what God ordained for husbands and fathers.

The proper place of fathers in the home is in serious trouble and a great deal of the problem lies in Hollywood. The role of a strong father figure leading his family physically and spiritually is under constant attack by many of the movies and sitcoms depicting family life. In these programs the husband/father is often portrayed as a lovable bumpkin with little common sense. He is unable to figure out the right thing to do. Or, he is a father who is uncaring and aloof from his family. Maybe the husband and wife are divorced because the father has become a philandering ladies-man, or some

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 3)

irresponsible, deadbeat who offers little time and support to the family. So the burden of raising the family is left up to the wife/mother. When a crisis arises in the family the man doesn't know how to handle it, or he is no longer available, so the problem solving is left up to the wife. She is the one possessing the proper love, concern and wisdom, able to rescue the family after the father has messed things up. This is why it is time for husbands and fathers who are Christians to stand up for truth and restore fathers to their rightful place in the home.



Wisdom in Learning God's Commands

By Doy Moyer

The ethics of Christians fall under the category of virtue. Virtue ethics is grounded in the attributes and character of God, for all virtue flows from Him. While there is an obligation of following rules (God's commandments), there is a significant and vital component of learning wisdom. Why? Because, for the most part, the New Testament does not give a list of rules or specified do's and don'ts. There is some of that (e.g., I Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21), but even then, we are expected to learn the principles involved in what is specified.

This is why the Hebrews writer can say, *"Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil"* (Hebrews 5:14). The ability to discern is wisdom. This is also why it is so fallacious to argue that something is okay just because the Bible doesn't specifically say it is wrong. That argument is grounded in a lack of wisdom and is instead looking merely at rules. If everything were spelled out specifically, there would be no need to discern.

Wisdom is the domain of the mature who are seeking to glorify God in everything they do and say. While we all fail at this, it is also wise to get back up after a fall and continue on the path of seeking to please God. Virtue is not a one-off action, but a steadfast, life-long journey over hills and valleys, difficulties and triumphs.

*"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight.
Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.
She will place on your head a graceful garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown"* (Proverbs 4:7-9).