

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 21, 2020

### **“A Father’s Love”**

by Brian Meade

In honor of today being Father’s Day, I wanted to look at the proper role of fatherhood according to God’s word. Many today struggle at being a good father, and because of that there has been a rise in absentee fathers. Sadly, fathers can be AWOL for selfish and sinful reasons, and the family greatly suffers when men leave their role to a single mother to do it all.

But God’s design for the home is to have both the father and the mother lovingly guiding and raising children in the home. Father’s can and should be a great influence and example of what it means to be a good dad. Children need this in their lives to know how to be good parents themselves.

With that in mind, let’s look at God’s picture of the role of fathers.

#### **I. A Father’s Love Provides For His Family.**

God has given the duty and major responsibility of the role of provider for the home (Genesis 3:17-19; 1 Timothy 5:8). It was Adam’s role in the first family to provide the food, shelter, and the general needs of the home. It is what we call today being a “breadwinner” for the family.

Families require many things to function properly: food, clothing, shelter, protection, leadership, and love; and a father has a major role in securing these needs. Money and a paycheck is needed for everything in life.

I remember the days when my dad would be gone for long hours, working 3-4 jobs, just to provide our needs growing up. He drove a school bus, worked as a teacher at Mullins High School, in the evenings worked as a projectionist at the Weddington Theatre, and on weekends worked at Farmer’s Feed Supply. He stayed gone a lot when I was young, but we had what we needed. He did it because he loved and cared for us!

When a father sacrifices his time and his labor for the family, he realizes that without his efforts the whole family can suffer need. That’s why he works hard and puts the hours in at work to supply his families needs. Today, we set aside time to honor this kind of father’s sacrifices and commitment to his family!

God, our heavenly Father, illustrates this principle for us when He provides us our needs. Notice God’s care for all of humanity in Matthew 5:45, *“so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”*

And in Matthew 7:11, we read of His care for His people, *“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 what is good to those who ask Him!”*

#### **II. A Father’s Love Shows A Good Example To Follow.**

Too many kids growing up see the wrong kind of example or no example because the father has left his role in their lives. Many children grow up in broken homes due to divorce and do not see a good example of manhood.

But God designed marriage for the father to be in the children’s life and be a role model worthy of emulating their example. Fathers need to be stable, strong, and loving as a father figure should be. A Christian father in the home should be



like what Paul wanted Timothy, his son in the faith (2 Timothy 1:2), to be in 1 Timothy 4:12, “...but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

The Christian father in the home should show, not just say, what is the right way to act and be in this life. He should show honesty, compassion, forgiveness, humility, and a proper attitude toward God in obedience.

The term, “Like father, like son” has a lot of truth behind that saying. Children pick up bad and good behavior from their parents because that is all they see as an example growing up. And it is extremely important for us “to wear the shoes you want filled.” That simply means that if you want your kids to be faithful to God, loving, caring, compassionate, kind— you need to be that way first! They need to see you following along in your Bible during Bible studies and to know that service in the church is a priority (Matthew 6:33).

### **III. A Father’s Love Imparts Guidance & Wisdom For Living.**

Fathers have wisdom and instruction that can help their children to go the right way and avoid certain pitfalls of life. Fathers have gained wisdom through their experiences in life— about what works and what doesn’t work.

It is often that when children reach their teenage years that they begin to stop listening to their parents advice and wisdom. But that is when they need it the most! Mark Twain once said, “When I was a boy of 14 my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man learned in 7 years.”

Let us teach them while they are in our care and under our roof to be wise!

### **IV. A Father’s Love Sets Rules & Boundaries.**

As the leader of the home, the father sets boundaries and rules for the household and the children must obey them. All the rules that he lays down for the family is not for their harm, but for their good! Because he loves his children, he will not let them do destructive and hurtful things. And children may not understand why they can’t play with fire, but it is for their own good that we prohibit that behavior.

The same is true of our Heavenly Father who sets boundaries and rules for us to follow from the Scriptures. Notice in 1 John 5:2-3, “*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*”

God does NOT want to see us hurt ourselves by way of sinful deeds. Now some might not like and even hate His rules and commandments, but they are always for our good— as a loving Father who cares for His children!

### **V. A Father’s Love Corrects & Disciplines.**

And when children get out of line and misbehave, fathers need to be one who will correct and discipline as needed. The Bible teaches us, “*He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*” (Proverbs 13:24). Part of the discipline and instruction of young child must include some form of punishment to curb unwanted and bad behavior. Do you remember why your father spanked you? I sure remember mine, and now I can say it was for my good! Just as our Heavenly Father loves us too (Heb. 12:5-7; Revelation 3:19).

### **VI. A Father’s Love Encourages Us To Do Our Best.**

Children need love and encouragement to do what they do in life. Whenever kids play sports or other challenging activities at school, they need us to support them in their endeavors. It is often that we speak to them positively about school work and their grades and keep pushing them on to do better and better.

We can all use encouragement when things get difficult and we feel like giving up. God encourages us to greater heights; notice in Romans 15:5, “*Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,*”

Earthly fathers are to do the same for their sons and daughters— “*just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,*” (1 Thessalonians 2:11)

If all our kids ever hear is criticism and complaints of how they do things, then they will start to believe they are no good. Let us be a force for good in their lives and overcome obstacles rather than backing away from life’s problems.

Why encourage? Because love believes the best in others! Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians 13:7 that love, “*bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*” If we love our children, we want them to do their best!

### **VII. A Father’s Love Leads Us To Our Heavenly Father.**

As the spiritual leader of the home, the father we call dad takes us to church, makes sure we are learning the Scriptures, instructs us about the God that he serves, leads his family in prayer at the dinner table and at other times too, keeps his eye on heaven (Colossians 3:1-2), and teaches his kids to obey the gospel (Mark 16:16). A good father, who loves the Lord, knows that he can teach you everything about life generally— but if he didn’t teach you about the Lord he missed the greatest work a father can do! Let us train our children in the Lord! (Ephesians 6:4)

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor,, Danny Cottrell, Gary Doles, and Sherry Doles.

Sherry Doles had her surgery last week and will be recuperating this week.

**Those Who Serve:**

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| <b>Announcements:</b>                          | Sam Johnson                           |
| <b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b> | Doug George                           |
| <b>Song Leader:</b>                            | Adam Harris                           |
| <b>Lord's Supper:</b>                          | Fred Johnson                          |
| <b>Preaching:</b>                              | Brian Meade                           |
| <b>Sermon:</b>                                 | <i>"How Beautiful Heaven Must Be"</i> |
| <b>Closing Prayer:</b>                         | Paul Busby                            |