

## Father's Day

Today is the day our society has set aside to honor fathers. Although there is no scriptural precedent to set aside a special day for this, I believe that this is a good thing. The right kind of fathers deserve honor, not only from their children, but from others as well. Fathers are critically important in God's plan for the human family and for our society in general.

The human family was established by God Himself to be a divine institution. The scriptures are filled with admonitions for fathers to lead their families in every way, especially in spiritual matters. In the Patriarchal age, God led the people through the fathers of the families. Consider how God spoke to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Israel, Joshua, etc. Fathers were also an important component of the Law of Moses, and today, New Testament Christianity. Consider the Ten Commandments from which Paul quoted in Ephesians 6:1-4: *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.' And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."* God dealt with mothers on some issues, but primarily he deals with the fathers because he considers them the leaders of the families. This same type of relationship exists even between Jesus and God. Jesus called God His Father and honored Him by doing His will. God called Jesus His Son and gave Him *"all power"* (Matt. 28:18) through His obedience. God calls us through the gospel to be His children. He is our Holy Father if, indeed, we want Him to be. There is no doubt that fathers are important in God's plan for mankind.

The family is an essential part of our society and fathers play a critical role. Good, stable, family men are essential for the church to function as it should. Good fathers are essential for children to mature physically, emotionally, and especially, spiritually. It should be self-evident that fathers have a great responsibility in the home, church and society in general. Sadly though, our society over the past few years has downgraded the importance of fathers. In many homes there is no father and not many people see a real problem with this arrangement. Some even pride themselves on being a "single parent" family; or, more perverse, a "two mothers" or "two fathers" family. Such is not God's preferred plan for His creation.

We need to go to God's word for our instruction on how to fulfill our responsibilities to be good fathers. Please read again the above quote from the pen of the apostle Paul. God's plan for the family also includes a mother/wife. It is extremely difficult for a father to be the leader he should be without the support of a good woman. God knew this. He said in Genesis 2:18: *"It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* God's plan, therefore, is for there to be a family unit that includes both a father and a mother. Paul emphasized this in Ephesians 5:22, 23: *"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body."* A few people in our society recognize our obligation to submit to the Lord, but not as many are willing to honor God's commandment to submit to the leadership of a good father.

The responsibility to lead the family is the father's. He should be the spiritual compass for them to follow. To do this he needs to be there for them in every way. God's way is for the father to love, lead and supports his family. He is to be the role model for his children to learn how to live and earn a living. He is to be the secular, and above all, the spiritual leader. He is to teach their sons how to be good husbands and fathers and their daughters how to choose the proper husband and father for their children. Sadly, many do not do this; even when they are present in the home, some have abdicated this responsibility.

Fathers should accept the honor due them today but also should never forget that they have to earn that honor by accepting the responsibility God has laid upon them.

By: Andrew Laux