



Today we honor all of our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and all the men who fill such important roles in the lives of our families and our church. Fathers we salute you. We want you to know how important you are to us. We want you to know that we realize how much you teach us.

A small boy's definition of Father's Day:

"It's just like Mother's Day only you don't spend as much."

Definition of a father...

"A father is a man who carries pictures in his wallet where his money used to be."

Ephesians 6:1-3 - “<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother”— which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” (NIV)

A small boy said, "Father's Day is just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much on the gift." And most fathers would say, "What gift?" Ask the Father beside you, "Did you receive a gift today?"

Being a parent and a father can be an interesting and trying experience. Someone said, "Parents spend the first part of a child's life urging him to talk and walk, and the rest of his childhood telling him to sit down and keep quiet." Both parenting and fatherhood can be a real trial and yet a real blessing at the same time.

A father has a great responsibility because the true image of the heavenly Father should be seen in the life of an earthly father. Someone once wrote -- "As the father goes -- the family goes."

It is a shame that our homes lack men that are willing to be men. Yes -- you may provide well for your family -- you can protect your family -- but if you are not the dominant spiritual force for your family -- then your family will never be the complete family -- under God -- that He designed and desires for your family. Let us thank our fathers for:

### ***THANKS FOR MATERIAL PROVISION***

1 Timothy 5:8 - "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (NIV)

If a father does not provide materially for his family, then he has denied the faith of Christ and is worse than unbelievers. Why would such a father be worse than unbelievers? BECAUSE EVEN UNBELIEVERS PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES!

### ***THANKS FOR FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION***

Ephesians 6:4 - "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (NIV)

Ephesians 6:4 - "And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice." (TLB)

Fathers do instruct their children about many things. As a father or parents, somehow, we know our children from head to toe. We know if they are sick. We know if they did something wrong. We know if they said something wrong.

Faithful instruction is important, but we have to be careful how we deliver it. All criticism and no praise is not good. ARE YOU A COACH OR A CRITIC? You need to thank your father for the faithful instruction he gave you in life...for all the good advice. And especially, if that instruction included the Lord!

### ***THANKS FOR GODLY ILLUSTRATION***

1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul said to the Corinthians who were his children in the faith, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (NIV).

Please notice: Paul didn't say, "Do everything I do." He said, "Do everything I do which is Christ like." Or follow the example of Christ. Paul wasn't perfect and neither are we. There are some things that I have done in life that I do not want my children to do. I'm sorry when I have given them a bad example. But I have also done some good things, some godly things, some Christ like things, which I hope they will copy from my life. The most important is my love for God and my love for people.



- 1.) *How do you show your love and respect to your Father?*
- 2.) *What do you think is the importance of honoring Him?*
- 3.) *Share a memorable experience with your dad that left a mark in your life?*