

June 15, 2014
Port Gardner Church
Chuck Hickman

**A Grace Filled Father
Father's Day 2014**

**Sonora Smart Dodd: father was a Civil War Vet who raised 6 kids after his wife died.
New York Associated Men's Retailers. 1938
Nixon signed into law 1972**

Biblical Truths about being a Father

Fatherhood is from God

Psalm 127:3-5 [3] Behold, children are a **heritage from the LORD**, the fruit of the womb a reward. [4] Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. [5] **Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!** He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

God is the giver of life and the giver of blessings. But His blessings are given in to fallen people in a fallen world. Many of us think that if God gives us something, it will easy and perfect and smooth sailing... because He gave it to us. Not so. Jesus is the only perfect gift. There is always trials and struggles and pain with any earthly blessing. It's the way of the world.

Fathers get angry... some more than others.

It is a big enough problem that it is mentioned multiple times in scripture

Ephesians 6:4 [4] Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 [21] Fathers, **do not provoke your children**, lest they become discouraged.

Greek: Erethizo

: **to cause** the occurrence of (a feeling or action) : to make (something) happen

: **to cause** (a person or animal) to become angry, violent, etc.

Many times... we are right.

Many times our children take advantage of our love and kindness. Sound familiar?

Give up your right to be right. God the Father did.

Fathers need Jesus

Ephesians 4:20-32 [20] But that is not the way you learned Christ!—[21] assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, [22] **to put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, [23] and to be **renewed in the spirit of your minds**, [24] **and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

[25] Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. [26] Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, [27] and give no opportunity to the devil. [28] Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. [29] Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31] **Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.** [32] **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Stop being so stubborn. Stop the self pity.

Martin Lloyd Jones said: nowhere in scripture does God tell us that when we have an habitual sin that we can't seem to get control of... to take it to Jesus and He will remove it. What God does say is to just plain... STOP.

God has provided the power of His Holy Spirit.

But much of the time, we just choose to live in our own "rightness"

Stop pretending you've got it all figured out. Stop pretending that you don't have any problems that need help. Get the help you need. If you have trouble with your kids... you definitely have trouble with your spouse. Humble yourself and get in a counselors office.

It takes effort and work and time and money. If you complain about any of these... you don't really love your family the way you think you do.

I've counseled men who say, I've tried counseling and the counselor was bad. Or it didn't work or I just got beat up. Grow up and find a better counselor. That's just a cop out. Don't say you're willing to do whatever it takes when you really are not.

I even had a man who was struggling in his marriage and with his children (**who was a trained counselor**) tell me that he wouldn't go to see a counselor because he already knew what they would say. I don't even know where to begin with that one.

The Lord corrects and disciplines those that He loves

Proverbs 3:11-12 [11] *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, [12] for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.*

God says you are the leader of your family. He doesn't say you should be, he says you are. We are all leading our family somewhere... the question is, where are you leading yours.

No one else is going to do this for you. You are called to pro actively reconcile... and that doesn't always mean calling them out on their sin. It means examining yourself and repenting of yours... to them and to God. That is the beginning of reconciliation.

You are the Father. You are the leader whether you like it or not. Will you lead in a manner that brings glory to God?

Confess your sin against your children... to your Children

James 5:16 [16] *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

And for all of us...

Forgive your Father

Luke 17:3 [3] *Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,*

Honor Your Father

Exodus 20:12 [12] *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

How do I Honor My Father If He will Not Repent? Or is not a believer, or is even dead?

Sometimes you've got to parent your parents. Honoring God always honors your father... whether he's a believer or not.

You may think I've been beating you up. Come to church on Father's Day and get punched in the mouth... gee thanks Pastor Chuck. But I don't say this to beat you up... I say it because I love you. And more importantly... Jesus loves you.

Jesus came to reconcile you to His Father. To make His father your father. To be your brother. If God is willing to give up every bit of His right to be right. His right to be angry... His right to judge us guilty... Don't you think you can give up your right to be right?