



Volume 7, No. 6, June, 2019



May I Call You Father?

*May I call You Father
 May I call You Friend
 I've hurt You, Jesus
 I've hurt You with my sin*

*Father, please forgive me
 I am young and can't survive
 Without the peace of mind
 That only You provide*

...Please forgive

Name of songwriter unknown



God of Our Fathers

*God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
 Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
 Of shining worlds in splendor thru the skies,
 Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.*

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
 In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
 Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
 Thy Word our law, Thy path our chosen way.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
 Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
 Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
 Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
 Lead us from night to never-ending day;
 Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
 And glory, laud and praise be ever thine. Amen*

WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts (w 1876)

MUSIC: George W. Warren (w 1892)



A Tribute to Dad

Dad didn't have a fancy car

Didn't want one

Dad had a plain dog

He really liked that dog

Dad didn't have a fancy bull

Too much risk, not enough payback

Dad had five old tractors

Those were the reliable ones

And they showed his maintenance skills

He thought it was his job to make us good

Dad took responsibility upon himself

to make things work

And to create value from others' time

His unsaid motto "I got this"

If Dad could help out, count him in

Anytime of day was a good time to work

Doing valuable things and doing them well had great
 value

But he could throw a knuckleball that no one could hit

He wouldn't sell stuff for more than it was worth

He wouldn't sell it for less

Firm but generous to his family and community

He was a faithful husband, loving father, proud
 grandfather, follower of Christ, and

A source of wisdom and strength for those of us blessed
 to know him.

Lewis & Rodney

Lewis Wiles, Rolla, MO



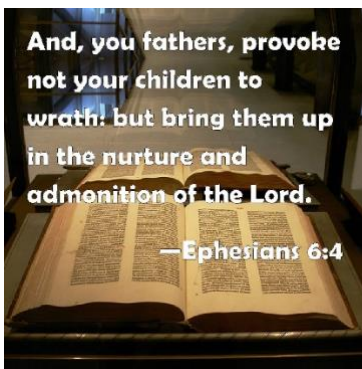
A Father's Influence

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:21-24

A father has so much influence on his family – whether it be good or bad. Fortunately for the human race, Enoch had a good influence on his family. What a man Enoch must have been! The Bible says he walked faithfully with God, and then God took him away! His son Methuselah had to have watched his father and listened to what he must have said about following God's ways. How do I know? Because Methuselah had a son named Lamech, and a grandson named Noah.

For Noah to have been counted as the only righteous father left on the face of the earth, the lessons learned from Enoch had to be passed down from generation to generation. Noah's wife and his sons and their wives were also saved from the flood because of that family influence.

In this nation of ours, the culture found on television shows and depicted on social media is not



what God would want of His children. It is up to us as parents and grandparents, to pass down to our children and grandchildren a love for our Father in heaven, and to pass along what it means to walk with God. There is a standard of behavior He expects from us, and all that we need to know is found in His Holy Word, the Bible.

The devil is mighty and strong in our world today, but we know Jesus has already conquered him. The devil will not be victorious in the end. Let's not contribute to the casualty list. Let's encourage faithful fathers that we see around us – their job is not an easy one. They carry a lot of responsibility on

their shoulders. Keep all fathers in your daily prayers.

By Lorna Smith, Lubbock, Texas

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How great is the Father's love, that we be called children of God – 1 John 3:1

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Thoughts About Christian Fathers

Fathers. Who are these creatures? Why do we have fathers? What are their responsibilities? What are their strengths, their vulnerabilities?

Fathers are necessary. Without them, none of us would be here, biologically speaking. Fathers are special and have serious obligations to their wives, their children, and, most importantly, to **their** Father. Way back during the week of creation, on Day 6, this happened in Genesis 1:

*²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God **created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.** Verse 31a tells us: ³¹ God saw **all** that he had made, and it was very good.*

Even though everything was perfect when God finished with creation, it didn't stay that way—because of the humans He created. You know the story. Because of their sin, they were driven from the perfection of the Garden of Eden. Fathers have had responsibilities since Garden of Eden. They have tilled the soil, hunted for food, provided for their families. Fathers have shouldered the primary responsibility for providing for their families' needs and for protecting them. Fathers must be strong and carry heavy loads (responsibilities for the family) for its well-being, its future.

Fathers build. They build block towers with toddlers, doll houses for daughters, tree houses for sons. Some fathers build highways, houses, high rise buildings, pipelines, you name it. Most importantly, Christian fathers build strong spiritual foundations for families and help their children build their own good character.

Dads hold our hands for a little while and hold our hearts forever.

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Paul Harvey on Fathers

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth, without an anesthetic.

A father is a thing that growls when it feels good—and laughs loud when it's scared half to death.

A father never feels entirely worthy of worship in his child's eyes. He never is quite the hero his daughter thinks, never quite the man his son believes him to be. This worries him, sometimes, so he works too hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him.

A father is a thing that gets very angry when school grades aren't as good as he thinks they should be. He scolds his son although he knows it's the teacher's fault.

Fathers grow old faster than other people.

And while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers stand there and beam outside—and die inside. Fathers have very stout hearts, so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what is inside. Fathers give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough so they can have grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. Fathers fight dragons almost daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table, off to the arena, which is sometimes called an office or a workshop...where they tackle the dragon with three heads: Weariness, Work and Monotony.

Knights in shining armor.

Fathers make bets with insurance companies about who will live the longest. Though they know the odds, they keep right on betting. Even as the odds get higher and higher, they keep right on betting more and more.

And one day they lose.

But fathers enjoy an earthly immortality and the bet is paid off to the part of him he leaves behind.

I don't know where fathers go when they die. But I have an idea that after a good rest, he won't be

Fathers are fixers and heavy lifters. They heft boxes or furniture. They grease and fix bike chains, lawn mowers, and vehicles. Fathers are fun and play hide and seek or catch with their youngsters. They may sip imaginary tea at imaginary tea parties. They coach their little boys' and girls' sports teams. They chaffer their families on vacations or family picnics. Christian fathers regularly chaffer their families to Bible classes and worship.

Fathers teach their children—by example, by administering discipline, by encouragement, and by their pride in them. They teach them to drive, including how to control a car in a spin or in slick conditions. Fathers love deeply but can't, or don't,



necessarily express it easily. They love their wives, and they love their kids. Fathers

protect their loved ones fiercely and would die protecting them. They are a shield from dangers to their families. Fathers encourage. There's nothing like a dad's "atta girl," or "atta boy" to encourage a child to try again, to try harder.

Fathers fight wars. Some wars are to defeat world enemies that threaten the futures of their families. Some wars are to protect their children from pollution, be it environmental or spiritual pollution. The secular world is at war with Christian fathers and makes every effort to diminish the importance of fathers and families. Faithful fathers fight valiantly to instill in their children knowledge of God and His word and to equip them to overcome the worldly enemies that seek to ensnare their children.

Fathers influence their families—for good or bad. Joshua said in Joshua 24:15, *as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.*" On the other hand, Ahab is described in 1 Kings 16:30: *Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him.* Two of Ahab's sons succeeded him on the throne, and both followed in his evil ways. We don't need fathers like Ahab!

Let's thank the fathers among us who do their best to love, lead, and teach their children to be faithful followers of Christ.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, MO

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happy unless there is work to do. He won't just sit on a cloud and wait for the girl he's loved and the children she bore. He'll be busy there, too...oiling the gates, smoothing the way.

Via the internet

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Six Characteristics of a Strong Father

There is a revival going on in America. Among men. More men are saying, "Hey, I want to be a better husband and father," or, "I want to be the spiritual leader in my home." Let me share with you six characteristics of a strong father.

First, he is committed to his family. His job is not first. His hobbies and interests are not number one. Sports are not at the top of the list. With the exception of God, his family is at the very top. He realizes that the most important things in this life are not things...they're relationships.

Second, he spends time with his wife and kids. Time with the family is like oxygen – there's a minimum that's necessary for survival. It may be a date with his wife or an overnight trip with one of his kids, but his presence is felt.

Third, he solves problems in crisis. Satan attacks families in many ways. Perhaps through an illness...a loss of a job...a transfer... bad grades...death...a kid in trouble with the law. Problems arise. In the midst of trouble, strong fathers recognize the strength of their Heavenly Father (Matthew 7:7-11).

Fourth, he is the spiritual leader at home. He knows what Paul said in Ephesians 6:4, "*And, ye fathers...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" He applies the instruction of Moses in Deuteronomy 6:5-7: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.*"

Fifth, he expresses appreciation. He counts his blessings. He develops the attitude of gratitude. He is grateful for the love, joy, and peace that reign in his home.

Sixth, he practices good communication. He is more positive than negative. He spends more time building than blasting. He is as James instructed, "*swift to hear and slow to speak*" (James 1:19).

Joshua on one occasion said, "*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:15). What about it, fathers? Is that true in your house?

Keith Parker, Hendersonville, TN
Via Via Voice of Truth

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Do You Like to Write?

Sunrise is blessed with some very good writers who regularly respond when called upon to contribute. However, Sunrise needs more writers. If you write poetry or articles that have a good spiritual application, please send them to evelyn@lawaitte.org. Articles should be 500-650 words (there is some leeway on that), and each should be encouraging and uplifting to sisters in Christ. Other guidelines may also apply. If you need to know potential themes for future issues in order to stimulate your creative processes, please contact me at the above email address. Thank you for your contributions to Sunrise!



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