

# Father's Day at CF!

Sermon Notes - BK

June 16, 2024

**WELCOME!**

**Happy Father's Day!**

## Announce:

- VBS
- Serving Opportunity (Jerrie)
- Work in the back to flip the Clothing Outreach with the Youth Center is happening!

**Father's Day – Gotta start with some bad-dad jokes...  
DUH!**

**Being a dad is a serious thing!**

*- Maybe this is why we need bad jokes like these!*

## I have a bunch for you today!

- What do you call a **Frenchman** wearing **sandals**?
  - *Philippe Flop*
- What brand of **jeans** do **scientists** wear?
  - *Kelvin Klein*
- Which days are the **strongest**? **Saturday and Sunday.**
  - *The rest are weekdays*
- What do you call a line of **men waiting** to get haircuts?
  - *A barber-queue*
- My hotel tried to charge me ten dollars **extra for air conditioning.**
  - *That wasn't cool*

- Did you know that the first French **fries weren't cooked in France**?
  - *They were cooked in Greece*
- I found a wooden **shoe in my toilet** today.
  - *It was clogged*
- Have you heard about those new **corduroy pillows**?
  - *They're making headlines*
- **If a pig** loses its voice...
  - *Does it become disgruntled?*
- Have you heard about the **restaurant on the moon**?
  - *Great food, bad atmosphere*
- What's **blue** and **not very heavy**?
  - *Light blue*
- When I was a kid, my mother told me **I could be anyone** I wanted to be.
  - *Turns out, identity theft is a crime*
- Why should you **never brush your teeth** with your **left hand**?
  - *Because a toothbrush works better*

**ALSO... for Father's Day, I will only be talking for about 5 minutes... JUST KIDDING!**

Truthfully, there are **just a few verses** we will be springing out of today.

While this is **technically**, a "Father's Day" message, there are certainly **applicable elements** to this for all, for sure.

**Our verses are from Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church.**

**Paul writes to them to give those in Corinth further instruction**, and because there are **significant problems** that are going on in the church

- There were **cultural things** that have become part of their **worship** service that needed to be corrected
- There were **sin issues** that needed to be corrected
- There were **mindset issues** that needed to be corrected

### **Part of the issue was how they viewed leadership**

- They **did not understand servant leadership** (1 Cor. 3:5)
- They thought of **the leader to be the end-all, be-all** and **minimized the work of God** (1 Cor. 3:7)

They had an **immature understanding of wisdom** and needed **mentoring** and further instruction.

This is **some of why Paul was writing:**

- To **correct wrongs**
- To **give direction**
- To **re-establish truths** that were previously given

**The people in Corinth, much like the church today, needed clarity and direction.**

**Paul takes time to correct** some things and **speaks strongly** in the process.

The church in **Corinth had a strong anti-Jesus current** it was **swimming up against** and **some found it easier just to float** downstream with it, ***rather than swim against the current.***

- **Don't you find it easier** that way too?
- It is much **more fun to "go along"** than to be **"the one" who goes against** the flow – even if the flow is going in the wrong direction...

This was **certainly the case** for the church in Corinth...

They needed **God's wisdom** to know **how to walk the way of Jesus** in their culture.

They had **many opinions**, they needed wisdom...

**This background helps us to understand** more what **Paul was teaching** in this passage.

**Let's read these few verses...**

***1 Cor. 4:14-16***

***<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup> For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> I urge you, then, be imitators of me.***

**Paul's strong talk and direct teaching in this letter was needed, but it was with the deepest kind of love for them**

- The love only a parent can give.
- He **communicated** to them as a "spiritual father."

**The love of parents is absolutely critical in the raising of children.**

**Both mother and father.**

**I do not have the statistics for Corinth**, back in the first century, but my guess it would be similar to our culture now...

**Mothers are typically more available than fathers in being there for their kids.**

**Roughly 80% of single-parent families are mom-parented.**

**Of course there are great fathers** out there, and many of them in this very room - but **many have left their post**

**My prayer** for us today is that **the fathers in our church would not leave their post** – or that they would **come back to it** if applicable and as the Lord leads.

**Paul says here –**

- **You have all “guides”**
  - Many who ***give you their “two cents”*** – **invited or not**
  - Those with **many “opinions”** on what you ***“should”*** do...
  - People can **blatantly tell you what to do** as well

**BUT...**

**Where are the ones who will be there like a good father would be...**

- **Invested**
- There **through thick and thin?**
- With **wisdom for OTHER’s benefit**, even if it **does not benefit them?**
- Someone who will **sacrifice time and resources** as necessary?

I am ***not usually a “statistics” guy*** – I am a bit **skeptical** how people use them for their benefit or to just prove their point...

The **statistics on biological fatherlessness** however and ***its affect*** are similar across the board – and they are alarming...

**Fatherlessness in our nation is a problem considered to be an epidemic by some.**

Here are some of the results of this in our nation – (This is from [nolongerfatherless.org](http://nolongerfatherless.org)...)

**Results of kids growing up without a father -**

- 85% of youths in **prison**
- 71% of **high school dropouts**
- 90% of all **homeless and runaway** children
- 60+% of **youth suicides** are from fatherless homes

**I also read:**

- Nearly **19 million children** live without their **biological father** (about 1 in 4-5)

**This is a lot... and there is actually more**

**Fathers, you are important.**

Many of you know **I myself** grew up without a dad.

**By God's grace and a great mom, *I did not become any of the statistics we read about.***

**It also gave me a great desire and a God-fueled passion/calling to be the dad I never had.**

**Truly by God's grace, the Lord gave me a wonderful wife and together we have 4 amazing kids.**

**The term "Father" is a pretty loose term.**

It **ranges** from:

- Simply one who is a **biological father**

- An amazing mentor and perfect role model
  - o MOST of us dads are *somewhere in between!*

I will add that there are many who are “*spiritual fathers*” and have been a **father-figure** for many.

Fathers are greatly needed in our culture today.

**1 Corinthians 4:15**

***15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers.***

*I realize this kind of message can feel very daunting.*

The role of “father” can be weighty for sure.

- The **guilt and shame** of not doing well in the past
- The **accusations from others** (even from your own children) that can weigh you down
- The enemy has tried to keep you under a rock...

Time to GET OUT from UNDER that rock and BREAK FREE!

Time to receive forgiveness from the past and direction for your future!

Honor.

Honor is not a word use a lot these days.

There is not much that is sacred anymore...

**Honor is something we learn to practice**

Honor is *something we choose* to do

Honor is not always easy, but something we *put into practice none-the-less.*

If we are to live according to God's Word, *honor is not optional.*

The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment (of the 10) is

***Exodus 20:12***

***<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.***

Paul chimes in like this

***Ephesians 6:1-4***

***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

Honor your father and mother...

Interesting fruit of this...

I believe...

Fathers who honor are much *more likely to be honorable.*

**Fathers who honor God and live a life to honor God, will be honorable**

This helping? How about we get really practical...

Where do we go from here?



## In a very practical way – Honorable Fathers are:

### - Present

- There is **intentional time given**
- They are **available**
- Sometimes **just being there** is all your child needs

### - Intentional

- Love your **wife first**
- Love your **children too!**

### **Romans 12:9-10**

***<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.***

### - Consistent (no time-stamp on this!)

- Being one **your kids can count on.**
- There are exceptions to this (work, etc.) – but **there is a plan to be there**
- This is another way of saying you are **reliable**
- **This is so important for your children to trust you!**

### - Humble –

- **Unlike God, who IS perfect, we are not!**
- **I have had to ask for my kid's forgiveness more than once!**

## Humility like Jesus.

### **Philippians 2:8**

***“Being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”***

## Jesus, in His ministry, He was:

- Present
- Intentional
- Consistent
- Humble

There is **more** – but **I know first-hand how valuable** these are.

- In times you ***do not agree*** with your adult children, you **love them anyway**
- In times you feel like ***“they didn’t listen last time”*** – you are **still there for them**
- In times when **they ask for help and you don’t “feel like it”** – **pray and see if there is anything you are led to do.**

We are told in Proverbs...

### ***Proverbs 22:6***

***Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.***

We looked at some **sad stats** from earlier about **children raised without their biological father** -

Now let's look at how we can **change these statistics** thru **MENTORING** – This is **certainly of fathering biological and spiritual as well!**

Here is some information from Mentor.org; these are **statistics of at-risk youth who have had a mentor**:

- **55% more likely to enroll in college**
- **80% less likely to spend time in jail**
- **75% less likely to experience teen pregnancy**
- **78% more likely to volunteer regularly**
- **46% less likely to use drugs**

- **81% more likely** to participate in **sports or extracurricular activities**
- **90% of them are interested in becoming a mentor (a good father/mother) themselves...**

***GOOD NEWS... Fathers who are investing in their kids are on the rise***

***PRAY –***

- **For fathers** (grab their hands, etc.)
- **For more “fathers” here at CFC**
- For us to **grow as a culture who honors fathers** and builds them up