

I. Text:

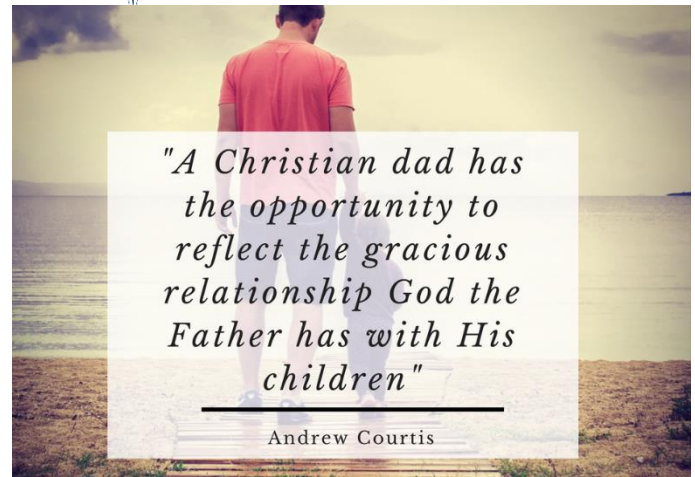
Acts 13:52 ⁵² And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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

Col. 3:21 ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

1 Jn. 2:13-17 ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Eph. 5:25 ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,



Can you think of any other Biblical passages than those above that specifically address or have commands for dads/fathers?

II. Introduction:

- A. **What kind of DAD are you?** (strengths and weaknesses) What would your wife say? What would your children say? What would your believing friends say? What would unbelieving friends say? **What does God say?**
- B. Radio Program: Today In Perspective with Dr. Harry Reeder – Series: A Biblical Duty for Dads - U.S. Census Bureau, **17.8 million children, nearly 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home.** Study by the Swiss Government (1990s)...If both Father and Mother attend church regularly, 33% of their children will end up attending church regularly, 41% will attend occasionally, and 25% will not attend at all. If the Father is not attending church at all and the mother attends church regularly, just 2% of their children will become regular worshippers, 37% will attend occasionally, and over 60% will be lost completely to the church. Why Ephesians 6 specifically addresses DADS to bring up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- C. Youth from our youth group in Denver: "I wish my parents disciplined me – at least then I would know that they care about me." (**Hebrews 12:5-13**)

How can you/Christian dads practically improve their mission to evangelize, disciple, discipline, and instruct their children in the Lord?

III. Evaluation Questions for Christian Dads

1. Are you pursuing your God-given role not only as a Protector and Provider, but also as the Spiritual Head/leader of your home who loves, nourishes, and cherishes his wife (**Eph. 5:25-33**), and who loves his children by training, evangelizing, and disciplining his children in the fear and admonition of the Lord? (**Proverbs 22:6**)
2. Do you have clear household rules, standards, and expectations? (**Exodus 20:3-17**)
3. Do you have clear and consistent consequences – disciplining your children in truth and love not anger or abuse? (**Hebrews 12:9-13**)
4. Are you leading regular family worship/devotions & praying with your wife & kids? (**Col. 3:12-17**)
5. Are you spending quality time disciplining/mentoring your children? (**Deut. 6:4-9**)
6. Are you loving your children in the greatest way possible by Biblically loving their mother/your wife? (secure, peaceful, loving home) (**Col. 3:19**)
7. Are you the spiritual leader, pacesetter, and good spiritual example to your children? (**1 Tim. 4:12**)
8. Are you faithfully obeying the commands in Scripture specifically addressed to fathers? (**Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21, 1 John 2:13-14**)

Which of these questions or areas are you convicted by the Lord that you need to work on the most?

IV. Main Points: Biblical Character of Christian Father

Galatians 5:22-26 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

1. **Loving** / caring, kind, encouraging VS hateful, uncaring, de-edifying
2. **Joyful** / happy, positive, worshipful VS grumpy, critical, negative, depressed
3. **Peaceable** / reconciling, investing/pursuing relationships VS fighting, arguing, complaining
4. **Patient** / forbearing, merciful, forgiving VS impatient, fault-finding, record of wrongs
5. **Excellent** / upright, useful VS lazy, unproductive, disorder
6. **Good**/ Righteous, obedient VS Deceitful, Lying, Hypocritical, evil
7. **Faithful** / overcoming, enduring VS quitter, traitor, compromiser
8. **Gentle** / gracious/meek/ VS angry, harsh, quick-tempered
9. **Self-controlled** / self-disciplined, self-denial VS self-sufficient, self-focused, self-absorbed
10. **Humble** / teachable/correctable VS Proud, self-centered, selfish
11. **Thankful** / grateful/appreciative VS bitter, unforgiving, retaliatory
12. **Truthful** / knowledgeable, wise, discerning, doctrinal, trustworthy VS Ignorant, Foolish, Naïve
13. **Fruitful** /productive, growing VS Unfruitful, weak, wasteful, declining
14. **Prayerful** / powerful, insightful, persevering VS proud, blind, sinful, deceived, distracted

Which of these character qualities or fruits of the Spirit are strengths and which are weaknesses?

Application: Resolved – to repent, recommit, and reach out (accountability)!

(The Resolutions of Johnathan Edwards) (Lord Jesus Help me THIS DAY prayers)

Acts 13:43 Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 11:23-24 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Repent - Reccommit - Reach Out (Reset, Refit, Retool, Resolve)

I. **Repent**/renounce/confess your sin(s) to God (Put off ALL sin)

II. **Reccommit** - Make a Decision - Commit, Resolve, Pursue (Put on ALL righteousness)

III. **Reach Out**/Share your plan with others/Seek Accountability (ask them to pray for you, keep you accountable/ ask the hard questions regularly, and encourage you to reset when you fail or fall short)

A. **Set and Keep a Biblical Schedule** with your spiritual priorities planned and non-negotiable (early to bed, early to rise, disciplined in fruitfruits)

1. Consistent in Personal Devotions (Qtime, AWG, Power – Pray, Organize, Word, Exercise, Recite/review)
2. Consistent in Family Devotions (Family Worship – read, discuss, pray, memorize)
3. Consistent in Church (Worship, Fellowship, Service, Evangelism, Discipleship)

B. **Set and Keep a Biblical Lifestyle**

1. Healthy diet – drink more water, portion control, limit sugar, carbs, processed/fast foods, caffeine, eat more fruits, vegetables, protein, set times to eat, consider some fasting, eliminate alcohol, nicotine, drugs
2. Physical Exercise – cardio/endurance, weights/strength training, stretching/flexibility
3. Time Management - Be more productive/eternal minded (Read Christian books, learn an instrument or foreign language instead of wasting your time with TV/movies/internet/social media/video games)

C. **Set and Pursue specific Biblical Goals** (day, week, month, year, 3 year, 5 year, 10 year)

1. Relationship with God (Devotional Life) (Ex. Read the Bible through in 6 months before 50th bday)
2. Relationship with Spouse (Married Life) (Ex. Plan/pray together, daily walks, read marriage book, plan & keep more time together, prioritize/communicate/listen to M above others)
3. Relationship with Children (Ex. Parenting Life) (Ex. Get individual time with each kid each week, disciple with 7 TBC classes)
4. Relationship with Believers (Church Life) (Ex. Invite every TBC member over for dinner this year)
5. Relationship with Unbelievers (Evangelism/Witnessing Life) (Ex. Make the most of every opportunity) (Ex. D.L. Moody talk to at least one person about the Lord each day)

List the top 3 ways you can better love your wife as Christ loved the church (**Ephesians 5:23-33**)?

