

THE PRICE OF BEING AN EFFECTIVE FTHR(2011)
 >>Evn if U don't knw much *ab him*--I think most of us here knw the name: Gen Douglas MacArthur
 *He was a 5-star gen/supreme cmndr of Allied forces in Pacific in WWII/winner of Congressional Medal of Honor/overseer of occupied Japan after WWII/cmndr of UN forces in Korea during the Korean War
 >>One night in 1942...with the whole world engulfed in war...
 *He came home late & after kissing his little boy Arthur (who was asleep in bed)
 *He sat dwn & wrote this prayer for his son
 >>>"Build me a son, O Lrd, who will be strong enuf to know whn he is weak & brave enough to face himself whn he is afraid; one who will be proud & unbending in honest defeat, & humble and gentle in victory.
 *Build me a son, O Lord, whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be."
 *Build me a son who a will know & honor Thee...who will learn, from stress & difficulty, to stand up in the storms, but also to hve compassion for those who fall."
 *Build me a son, O Lord, whose heart will be clean, whose goals will be high; a son who'll master himself before he seeks to master others; a son who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep."
 *Then...I as his father...will dare to whisper: 'I HAVE NOT LIVED IN VAIN.'"
 >>>>WOW--Medal of Honor winner/supreme Allied

commander/5-star general...
AND YET-FOR THIS MAN...
 *To "not have lived in vain"...meant NONE of these things
***Rathr...it meant:** raising up his child to be a genuine man of Gd
 >>>>>This is what we want to talk about today
 >>>>>**& U kw-**I wish U cld be a *fly on the wall* in my office when I meet with pple on Thursdays...
 *Just so U cld get a sense of the number of pple
 *Whse *biggst struggles in life* all stem frm hvng had an unavailablr/uncaring/unconnected dad
 >>>>>& there's a **rsn** why so many dads are like this
 *It's bec...being an effective, godly fthr...is one of the most **demanding/exhausting/&** **self-sacrificial jobs** in all the universe!!
 *Fiks—there's a **price to pay**...fr bng an eff fthr
 >>>>>**So please let me say as we begin today:**
 *If U're a father here today with young c'ren—
 I wanta urge U to pay this price **now !!**
 **The price of g'dly fthring is paid *up front*
 **The *return* comes later
 *If U're a father with teenagers—I wanta urge U to *begin* paying the price—nvr too late to start
 *If U're a fthr with grown c'ren--& U blew it whn they were growing up—
 I wanta urge U to go bck...& humbly seek their forgiveness
 **& begin making up to thm fr the "yrs tht the locust have eaten" in y'all's relat'p
 *Finally, if U're a single m/nwly married m n **& U don't have c'ren yet...

I wnta energe U to **LSTN UP—so U'll knw
 wht the price of being a gdlly fthr **IS**...
 & U'll be **ready** to pay it whn tme comes
 >**Title: The Price of Being an Effctve Fthr--4 of thm**
I-PRICE#1—An effective fthr cultivates a deep
 pers relat with JC in his own life
 A.Jn 15:5--"For w/out me, you can do nothing" (ie,
 of lasting sp. impact)
 B. SEE--w/out the pwr of JC flowing thru our veins...
 1. **No fthr** is able to deny self like he must do
 2. **No fthr** is able to hve the courage he mst hve
 3. **No fthr** is able to hve the wisdm/tenacity/
 just the right balance of tenderness &
 toughness he must have.
 C. When it comes to fathering, **evry man** is "in over
 his head" & desprly needs pwr of Gd in his life
SALV APPEAL: If you're here today and dont have a
 pers relat w/JC---then--**FOR U**--this is where
 effective fatherhood has got to start
II-PRICE #2- An effective father invests large
 amts of time in his c'ren
 ILST: Henry Cisneros (tmr Sec of HUD): "One of the
 most imp't things we hve to do is to find ways to
 re-engage fathers in the lives of their c'ren..."
 **It's not good enuf to say at the end of life,
 'Now is the time to get close to my adult
 c'ren & hope to straighten out the prob's
 in their lives.' It cannot be done that way."
 Father-absent c'ren are **the most likely to get
 into trouble."
 **C'ren need their fathers, not merely as a

source of income, but an impt element in their development."

ILLUST: Dr. Benjamin Stein *Washingtonian* "Simple Rules fr Dads": "The key to hvng a happy child is hvng a dad who is there with him or her, consistently, day in and day out."

APPL: Now—in saying this—*all these folks are doing* is agreeing with Gd's been saying in B fr cent's A. Dt 6:6—"These words, which I am commanding U this day, shall be on yur heart; & U shall teach them **diligently** to yur c'ren."

B. Dt 6:7—"U shall talk abt thm when U sit in yur house & when U walk along the road & when U lie down & when U rise up."

C. The clear assmptn here: is tht a dad is *sitting* in His house/& *walking* along the road/& *lying down/& rising up*... **WITH his c'ren !!**

D. The clear assumption of Dt. 6 = tht a fthr is not just an "occasional visitor" in his c'ren's lives... I. But tht he is a constant/ongoing/conspicuous "presence" in their lives

E. & this *demand* tht we make *large chunks of time* /"quantity time" available for our c'ren SAY: "But Lon-I give my c'ren *quality time*"

A: Well, in response to that, I offer U the words of Harvard Med School psychologist **Dr. Ronald Levant** (TIME: "*The Myth of Quality Time*"): "Quality time" is just a way of deluding ourselves into shortchanging our c'ren." "C'ren need vast amts of parental time & attention. It's an illusion to think they're going to be on yur timetable & tht U can

say, 'OK, we've got half an hour—let's get on with it!'"

*"Many of the most impt elements in c'ten's lives—regular routines, domestic rituals, consistency of life, & the sense tht their parents knw & care abt them—are exactly what's jettisoned when quality time substitutes for quantity time."

F. Now folks--*we all know*--that in here Washgtn—**nobody** has lots of extra time... **WHICH MNS**...

1. Tht if we're gna gve our c'tn "*quantity time*" *If we're gonna be at their school plays/ musical recitals/on their fieldtrips *Help thm with hmwrk/shoot hoop w/thm in bckyard/take thm fishing & camping *Read books to them/play computer games with them/teach them to drive... *Coach their bllteams/be thre at the dinner table/pray with them at bedtime... 2. We're gonna havta *take it* from something *else* we're doing *Time on golf course/tinkering in shop/ watching TV/reading newspaper/ garden or lawn/hobby/evn chrchwrk... ILLUSTR: Watching old videos of our family from when the 3 boys were young *Comment was made: "Wow dad—it seems like U did nthing else in life but spend x with us. *Well, U know—that's pretty much true *Fr the middle 20 yrs of my life, my *job descrip* in *life* was pretty simple: *do my ministry at MBC... & spend time with my c'tren*

*That's why my golf game stunk & my tennis game stunk & my bowling game stunk & my yard stunk & wax job on my car stunk

*BUT NOW—at age 62—looking bck—I treasure every single moment I spent w/my 3 boys

ILLST: Psychologist Dr. Christopher Bacorn (TIME: "Dear Dads: Save Your Sons")

*"I've come to believe that adolescent boys don't need shrinks; they need their fathers..."

*" & with their fathers around, many young women might come to expect more than the myth that a man's chief purpose on earth is to impregnate them & then disappear."

*"But what's become of these fathers? Where are they? Well, I can tell you where they're not. They're not at PTA mings or piano recitals. They're not teaching Sunday School or in the pediatrician's office holding a sick child."

*"So, if they're not in these places, where are they? They're in diners & taverns, drinking & playing pool. They're on golf courses & tennis courts. & in bowling alleys & fishing on lakes & rivers."

*"They're working their jobs, from early morning to late at night; or watching TV; or tending to their lawns; or tuning up the car."

*"In short, they are everywhere except in the company of their children.

*"Of course, there are fathers who do spend time with their children...Those who quietly help with homework, baths, laundry, & grocery shopping. Fathers who read to

their c'ren, drive them to ballet lessons, who cheer at soccer games."

*"These are the real men of America, the ones holding society together. Every one of them is worth a dozen investment bankers, a boardroom full of corporate executives, & all the lawmakers west of the Mississippi."

III-PRCE #3—An effective fthr enfronts his c'rn

A. Gd makes it clear in B--that a good father... **must** be... a "confrontational father"

B. Scripture:

1. Eph 6:4--"Fathers, bring yur c'ren up in the nurture & the admonition of the Lord"

2. Heb 12:9--"Furthermore, we all had earthly fathers who disciplined us & we respected them for it."

4. 1 Thess 2:11--"U kw how we exhorted & encouraged & admonished each of you, just as a father does his c'ren"

5. NOTICE: how (in Eph 6/Heb 12/1 Thess 2) B connects the job of "admonishing c'ren" / "disciplining c'ren" to "fathers"

C. & U kw-B is full of ex's of ftrs who *fauld* thr c'rn

1. Not bec they didn't LOVE them...

2. But bec. they weren't willing to pay the price to *confront & correct* them

*Eli the HP (1 Sam) failed his sons this way

*Isaac/Jacob/Samuel/Samson's parents

3. **David** was a *terrible dad* in this regard

*His son Adonijah(mutinied ag D when Dvd was on his death bed): 1K1:6--"His father

David had NEVER crossed Adonijah at any time by asking him: "Why are you acting the way U are?"

4. & in every case, these c'm "crashed & burn'd"
 ILT: TIME "Bring Up Fathr"-quotes psychologist Dr. Jerrold Shapiro—"While I commend the nurturing component of the 'New Father', men need to be more than pale imitations of mothers. If a man becomes Mr. Mom, then the family has a mother and an assistant mother...This is not what good fathers are all about"

*Article goes on to say--that large body of sociological research points to fact that "men parent differently than women in ways that matter enormously"

*& that "1 of the greatst places where this is true is in the area of confrontational discipline"

D. **Prblm is: confronting/correcting our c'ren is so stressful/so exhausting/so time-consuming...**

1. That it's *easier* just to let them go do whatever they want to do

2. BUT--a g'dly father realizes...that this is *abandoning* his c'ren...right at the point... where they need him **the most !!**

3. & so--he's willing to *pay this price* fr his c'm E. & may I add--that this *minstry of c'nfution* does not come to an end...just bec a chld turns 18! OH NO!

1. Some of the *dumbest things* my boys *evr did* came after the age of 18---evn after age of 21

2. & I was on them "*like a chicken on a June bug!*"

F. **LSTN: a fthr is *always* older/wiser than his c'm**

1. A father always sees things coming th evn his adult c'rn don't see

2. Which mns—th evn with his adult c'ren...

* A fthr's ministry of confrontation goes on

* Evn tho it may need to be soft/more subtle

IV- PRICE #4—An effective fthr speaks words of blessing/encragmt/affirmation to his c'rn

A. A godly father nvr leaves his c'ren "wondering"

how he feels abt them

1. He may confront thm whn they get it wrong

2. But he's just as quick to affirm/encourage/build thm up when they get it right!

ILLUST: I love the story in Gen 24 abt Rebekah leaving home to go marry Ab's son Isaac

* Rebekah lived with her family in city of Nahor

* Nahor was 100's of miles frm whre Ab/Is were

* Her fthr Bethuel knew he'd nvr see her again

* So B says tht as she prepared to go—(Gen 24:60) tht her fthr Bethuel & her brhrs "blessd Rebekah"—verbally—btre she went!

APPL: This is what godly fathers do—constantly!

IL: USA Tdy: Neil Chethik ("Dads, give yr sons a Father's Day-present")

* "Each yr as Fthr's Dy approaches, I'm reminded of the most impt words my own father ever said to me."

* My grandfather had died, so my father flew in & we headed to my g-fthr's house to begin sorting thru the remnants of his life

* We kept at it all day, then collapsed into my grandfather's living room chairs."

* As the room faded into darkness, I heard a

groan. It took a moment to realize what was
 happening. I had nvr btre heard my fthr cry.
 *I knelt by his side & afr a couple of momnts,
 he said, 'I'm crying not only for my father,
 but also for me.'
 *His death mns I'll nvr hear the words I've
 always wanted to hear frm him: tht he was
 proud of me, proud of the fmlly I'd raised,
 & of the life I'd lived."
 * & thn my father uttered those words tht still
 resound in my heart 17 yrs later: 'So tht U
 nvr hve to feel this way, I want to tell U
 now how proud I am of U, of the choices
 U've made, of the life U've created."
 *A father's affirmation has a pwrful impact on
 his c'rn, but espially on his sons...Similar
 words from our mothers simply don't have
 the same effect."
 *A son will forgive his fthr fr almost anything
 if the son can hear—in whatever way, at
 whtvr age—his dad's genuine affirmation.
 *So, this Father's Day, as we fathers accept
 presents & phone calls frm our sons(I mght
 add "dghters" too), lwt's give thm a gift so
 many of thm desire frm us, but will nvr
 request. Simple wrds, expressed sincerely:
 'Son, ("Sweetheart")...I'm proud of U."
CONCLUSION
 >>>>As fathers, Gd wants us to be able to look back
 one day on how we raised our c'ren...
 * & be able to say...w/Gen Douglas MacArthur...
 *I HAVE NOT LIVED IN VAIN"

>>But to *do* tht—we hvta be a *certain kind* of fthr
 #1-A fathr who cultivates own pers rela wth JC
 #2- A father who invests large amts of time in
 his c'ren
 #3-A father who confronts his c'ren abt the
 "weeds" in their garden
 #4-A father who continually speaks words of
 blessing/encouragement/affirmation to
 his c'ren
 >To all U mn who've chsen minivans ovr sprtscars
 *To all U mn who've chosen the vacation in
 Orlando over the vacation in Antigua...
 *To all U mn who've chosen chicken *nuggets*
 over chicken *cordon bleu*...
 >>>>God bless U men--& Happy F's Day to U!