

Fathers - You are Being Watched
Saturday, January 21, 2023
Men's Breakfast

A. My Role as a Father and Grandfather

1. Ephesians 5:1-2 (AMPC) Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.
2. I have always been aware of my role as a father with my children.
3. I endeavored to set an example before them.
 - a. Why? Because I knew they were watching me.
 - b. Even though it appeared they weren't.
4. Now I have grandchildren.
 - a. Justus and Jessie.
 - b. Eiley, Kayelin and Piper.
5. They are still young, but I have always been aware of my example and influence in their lives.
 - a. In 2019, the Lord asked me if I would be willing to be a father to Eiley, Kayelin and Piper.
 - b. Shortly after, Aubrey's marriage started breaking apart.
 - c. They moved back here from Oklahoma.
6. For a while, I became their dad.
7. Until Dave Mitchell came into Aubrey's life.
 - a. She is happily married.
 - b. I am now grandfather to his two girls.
 - c. Maddie and Brooklyn.
 - d. They call me, "Poppie."

B. 1 Corinthians 4:14-17 We are Fathers in the Faith

1. Verses 14-17 (AMPC) I do not write this to shame you, but to warn and counsel you as my beloved children. After all, though you should have ten thousand teachers (guides to direct you) in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the glad tidings (the Gospel). So I urge and implore you, be imitators of me. For this very cause I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and trustworthy child in the Lord, who will recall to your minds my methods of proceeding and course of conduct and way of life in Christ, such as I teach everywhere in each of the churches.
2. The difference between "instructor" and "father."
 - a. Instructor (KJV) (GK) A servant who's office it was to take children to school; a tutor.
 - b. Father (GK) A nourisher, protector and upholder.

3. Paul became a preacher and teacher of the gospel who stood in a father's place, caring for his spiritual children.
4. Verses 14-15 (MSG) I'm not writing all this as a neighborhood scold just to make you feel rotten. I'm writing as a father to you, my children. I love you and want you to grow up well, not spoiled. There are a lot of people around who can't wait to tell you what you've done wrong, but there aren't many fathers willing to take the time and effort to help you grow up.
5. Don't underestimate the importance of fathers in the faith.

C. From "Rediscovering Manhood" by Col Stringer

I watched a program about African Rangers dealing with the problem of overpopulation of elephants in one of their game parks. Their solution was to cull the herd—shoot the excess population and bring the herd back to sustainable levels.

Thinking that the best course of action would be to shoot all the older beasts and spare the younger ones, they proceeded to eliminate all the old males. Within a few months, they were astounded to discover that they had created a dysfunctional herd. Problems arose that they had never experienced before.

The juvenile beasts developed radical changes in their behavior. They had begun killing animals such as rhinoceros and gazelles—something totally unheard of. The young elephants were poisoning themselves by eating the wrong foods and rampaging through towns. Those had to be shot.

The rangers discovered what they had done by shooting the older males. They killed off all the role models—the herd's mentors. These older elephants passed along their knowledge and experience. They had shown the younger ones the best food to eat and the traditional migratory routes.

In other words, the young beasts did not know anything about normal elephant behavior without being taught. As a result, their whole society was affected and was in danger of breaking down. Does the problem have a familiar ring to it?

D. 1 Peter 5:1-3 We Instruct by Our Actions and Examples

1. Verse 2, 3 (NLT) Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.
2. Philippians 3:17 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine and learn from those who follow my example.
3. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

E. Letter from a 14Forty Student

Dear Pastor George,

I am sixteen years old and have been attending EMIC for over five years. I wanted you to know the impact that you have had on my life as a Christian and as a young woman.

All I have ever know about men has been how mean, harsh, uncaring and ungodly they have been. When I was about ten, I promised myself and God that I would keep myself pure for my future husband. I wanted my husband to be a Godly man. But, I never had an example of a Godly, righteous, loving man to look up to.

As we listened to you and watched you preach, I started getting a picture of what a Godly man was like. It gave me hope that there were other men out there that serve the Lord with all their hearts.

Thank you for being an example of a Godly man and father to my mother and

F. 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 They See Our Behavior

1. Verses 10-12 (BCJ) You witnessed my behavior, as did God. I was completely absorbed in God's will, full of integrity and beyond criticism. You remember how I encouraged you, guided you and challenged you, just like a father does his children to adopt a style of life that will reflect the standards of God who has invited you into His family for the fulfillment of His purpose.
2. In 2018, Jeremy, his son Justus and I took a trip to Massachusetts.
 - a. Jeremy was preaching at a conference.
 - b. We visited family sites and historic places.
 - c. We went to Legoland in Boston.
3. Jeremy was the speaker on the last night of the conference.
4. I was deeply affected when he shared with that congregation what he watched me doing on Monday, September 17, 2001.
5. I forgot! I had to go to the archive and watch the Father's Day service I preached on Sunday, June 17, 2018

We were flying to Massachusetts for my Grandfather's home going service.

He had passed away on the Friday following 9/11.

DFW Airport was empty.

No one was flying at that time.

My grandfather loved New York.

He was a graphic designer in the 1950's and worked at a studio at 365 Lexington Avenue.

We believe when he saw what happened to his city on 9/11, he said, "I'm done with this."

He went on home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 14.

We got out of the car to unload our luggage. There was a SkyCap there to take our luggage inside.

I will never forget this.

My dad stood there and took \$100 bill out of his pocket. He put it in the man's hand. He did it because no one was flying and he wanted to bless the man with a good tip. It deeply affected the SkyCap.

You know as well as I what you do when you arrive at a terminal for your flight. All you have is that flight on your mind. Make sure you are on time. Don't be delayed. Don't miss anything.

But the anointing to prosper — not just for your own life but for someone else's life — placed a demand on my dad. He stood there and treated him like he was valuable.

He took him by the hand — and prayed for him.

I can't tell you how many strangers my father has prayed for in my lifetime. And, he has gotten more and more proficient at it. I watch him. He is like a people magnet. They are drawn to him. He will just stand there with somebody and talk — and listen.

I was visiting with someone the other day about my dad. He said, "We sat there and watched your dad do 'that thing' he does. You know. When he looks at you as if you were the only person in the room."

I have personally seen "that thing."

Here is dad's posture. This finger goes along side the face. And, he begins to listen.

I don't know how many people have told me, "Your dad just stood there and talked to me like I was the only person in the room."

That is putting value on somebody.