

**Father's Day**  
**Part I**  
**"What to Give Your Dad on Father's Day"**  
**June 9, 2013**  
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Good morning, Lighthouse!

Today's message is Father's Day Part I.

Some of you are thinking, "Doesn't Pastor know that Father's Day is next Sunday?"

Yes he does; today's message is designed to get you ready for what could be the best Fathers' Day ever for you and your Dad.

It is not that often that the Lord will spend two whole Sundays getting a specific message across to us; when He does, you can bet He is going to change somebody's life for the better; quite possibly your own!

Not everyone is or can be a dad but certainly everybody has one. Whether your dad is passed away or still here, much of what the Lord is going to show us today will apply to you; even if your dad is no longer with you.

Next week, the Lord willing, we will be talking about "What children need from their dads;" but right now this message is for the kids; all of us kids of all ages.

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

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- 2 Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;
- 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

According to the internet, which means ☺ it must be true; *Father's Day* in the United States is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make for their children's lives.

Father's Day did not become a National holiday until 1972; 58 years after Mother's Day became a National holiday.

"Better late than never!" they say.

The next time you read an article about some nut wanting to abolish Mother's Day or Father's Day, remember: these are two instances where the government actually got it right: the Bible commands us to honor our fathers and mothers.

So what should you give your dad this Father's Day?

A tie, maybe; a card; a gift card; dinner out; a pocket knife; golf balls; socks or maybe (just in

case my kids are listening) a new pick-up truck: what does he really need from you?

Here are four gift suggestions from the Lord: they all start with the letter B so you remember them and they are all gifts you CAN afford to give. The first one is:

**I. Give your Dad a Break.** What are we talking about? We are talking about forgiveness.

*A. Do it for him.*

1. Your dad needs your forgiveness.
2. Not everyone here had the greatest, most perfect dad in the whole world like my kids. 😊
3. Some of your dads were/are pretty messed up.
4. Some were/are just plain mean.
5. Some were/are abusive.
6. Some have done some pretty rotten things and some of those rotten things were done to you.
7. We are all, to some degree, a product of our past; much of which we are not going to talk about to anybody.
8. You don't know what your dad went through that played a role in making him like he is or

was. The counselors say “hurt people hurt people.”

9. Sin and evil are never justifiable. That said; in his shoes, you might be no better or even worse yourself.

10. As a Christian, you do things out of compassion to bless people all the time (or at least you should) just because they have a need; regardless of whether they deserve it.

11. How much more should that kind of benevolence apply to your own dad?

12. Does he deserve it? Of course not! Do you want from the Lord what you deserve, or rather what you need?

*B. Do it also for yourself.*

1. When the Lord taught his disciples to pray, he gave us what we know as The Model Prayer: most refer to it, somewhat incorrectly, as “The Lord’s Prayer.”

## 2. **Matthew 6:9-13**

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

3. Often **the next two verses** that tell us *why* Jesus taught us this prayer are never heard:

### **Matthew 6:14-15**

14 For if **ye forgive** men their trespasses, [then] your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if **ye forgive not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

4. It is likely that some of you have been out of fellowship with the Lord for years because you harbor unforgiveness toward your dad over some way he hurt you.

5. Some of those hurts may be on a level of verbal, physical or even sexual abuse.

6. Some may be from a lack of sensitivity that can inflict tremendous hurt; dads are not known for being particularly sensitive. We all have our stories; some we are willing to tell and some we are not.

Secondly:

**II. Give your dad a Badge.** As in 'a badge of honor'.

*A. We are commanded to honor our fathers.*

1. Not necessarily because they deserve it.
2. Not necessarily because they want it.
3. Do it because God said to do it: that is enough.

*B. Father's Day is a good opportunity to honor your dad in some way; but honor is not a one day a year event.*

1. Honoring your dad is a 365, 24/7 deal.
2. You wear his name and how you live your life is a reflection upon that name; it is you who wear this badge of honor for your dad.
3. To the kids of all ages: he is not 'your old man'! He is your father and he is to be respected.
4. We honor our dads primarily because of their position: if there is more reason to honor them that just makes it all the better.
5. It works just like the way we are to honor Christian leaders:

**1Thessalonians 5:12-13**

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake...

**III. Give your Dad a Benefit;** specifically, the benefit of the doubt. Let me point out to you something you may not have considered:

*A. God gave you the dad you have.*

1. If your dad was or is not for whatever reason the dad you needed him to be, you can blame God and be angry.

2. He is the One who placed you together; there is no doubt about that.

3. Or – you can find the purpose of it all and, over time, become thankful.

4. Some of you would understandably argue about a loving God being the author of giving you a dad that sneaked in to your room and did unthinkable evil things to you; something more than a few have suffered.

5. Even though God may not have chosen that for you, he did not prevent it either.

6. Considering He is an all powerful, all knowing God, it really kind of amounts to the same thing.

*B. So how can you reconcile such a thing?*

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,

to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

1. The world would say “This is the ‘catch all’ verse that you Christians go to when you can’t justify what your all loving God allows to happen to you.”

2. Notice this verse does not say, “All things turn out good for those that love God;” does it? There is a difference.

3. We must recognize God’s purpose in allowing what He has allowed and then allow that allowance of God to accomplish its purpose in us.

4. If God would allow His only begotten Son to be crucified to save you; why is it unthinkable that He would allow you to suffer that you might become instrumental in saving others?

5. Who do you think runs and supports the shelters for pregnant unwed mothers?

6. Who do you think runs and supports the rape recovery programs in our communities around the country?

7. How much more does God use Christians who have suffered to comfort, shelter and protect those who experience like sufferings?

8. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

3 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

9. Instead of saving us from suffering, the Lord took us through it that we might be prepared and able to help others.

We will make this last one really short:

#### **IV. Give your Dad a Bonus.**

If you can, bring him with you next Sunday: next week's message is especially for him.

#### **In Conclusion:**

**Do you need to forgive your dad? He may not ever know; he may not even care; but if you belong to the Lord - you do.**

**Forgiveness is something you can do whether he knows it, wants it, likes it or not; even if he is already gone from this world.**

**You can spend a fortune in counseling trying to work your way up to a feeling of forgiveness or you can simply do it, like God commands. You can get on your knees and say to God; "Lord, right here and now I forgive my dad; not because he**

**deserves it or because I feel like it; but because you forgave me.” And then you can get up and walk away with clean heart.**

**Don't buy the lie that you just cannot forgive. It is just that; a lie!**

**It is amazing how children tend to become what they are told they are: “You're stupid;” “You dummy;” “Why can't you do anything right?” “What's wrong with you?” and worse. It is amazing what things get said to little kids sometimes.**

**What we often do not realize is that we adults tend to be the same. What do they say? “The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys?”**

**Find the good and let Dad hear that; you might be surprised the difference it can make.**