

“Practical Theology ~ *Absolute Truth* (Father’s Day 2017)

Happy Father’s Day

Top 8 Things You may never hear a DAD say ☺

1. Well how about that...**I’M LOST!** Looks like we’ll have to stop & ask for directions.
2. You know Pumpkin, **now that you’re 13** = I think you are ready for unchaperoned car dates.
3. **Here’s the remote** ~ ‘*turn that game off, I can’t wait to see **Say Yes to the Dress*** ☺
4. Your mom and I are going away for the weekend~ **here’s the keys to my car, drive it like you stole it** ☺
5. **Well, I don’t know what’s wrong with your car.** Probably one of those doo-hickey thingies ~ you know that makes it run or something. Just have it towed to a mechanic and pay whatever he asks.
6. No self-respecting son of mine is going to live under my roof **without an earring;** now quit whining and let’s go to the Mall.
7. So why did you go get a job? **I make plenty of money for both of us to spend.**
8. **Honey you just rest** ~ your mother & I love being at your beckoned call ☺

Happy Father’s Day

At WRCC we are big fans of dads that are faithful to God—faithful to their families—
and those who get up and go to work everyday!

..if you have the privilege of being a dad, stand-up and allow us to recognize you ☺

Let’s Pray...

**Dads carry a lot of weight on their shoulders...there are heavy demands placed on us...
and not many good YouTube video’s on how to be a godly dad.**

So, I thought today we would *dig around in God's word* to see what advice our Heavenly Father offers us on being a godly dad.

I. Building—Laying a Strong Foundation

A. Jesus ends his Sermon on the Mount with one of the best known parables in Scripture. He **contrasts** *a wise man who built his house upon rock with a foolish man who built his on sand* (very familiar)

B. © Matthew 7: 24-29 or p. 738

✚ Our familiarity with the story, however, can cause us to assume we grasp Jesus' intent. Many of us have learned *the foolish man represented non-Christians*. A closer examination of the story and its context reveals something different.

C. The parable is about two houses that appear to be the same; the only difference exists *below the surface*.

1) Jesus is not comparing *Christians and non-Christians*; he is contrasting two kinds of professing Christians—the genuine and the false.

2) They appear the same. As John Stott said, "Both read the Bible, go to church, listen to sermons and buy Christian literature."

3) The reason you often cannot tell the difference between them is *that the deep foundations of their lives are hidden from view.*"

D. The parable reminds and warns us that the most important thing about us, what defines our life and destiny, *is hidden from the view of others*.

✚ Jesus says it is the secret, hidden reality upon which we construct our identity that matters most.

As I have been thinking of the young dads in our midst— I'm reminded there is nothing more significant than who we are (when no one is looking) than laying a godly foundation and leaving a godly legacy for our loved ones.

PRIORITIES (that descriptively picture) what it looks like to...

II. **LAY** a godly foundation **AND LEAVE** a godly legacy for our loved ones

A. 1st priority in laying a godly foundation & leaving a godly legacy = Honor GOD

B. Practical Theology LOOKSLIKE in real time (rubber hits the road)

1) **TEACH** them to trust in the ABSOLUTE TRUTH of God's Word

2) **ABSOLUTE TRUTH** — something that is true at all times in all places and has relevance for our lives — is about as extinct as the dinosaur.

3) **Nearly three out of four Americans say** there's no such thing absolute, truth.

a. ® Psalm 33: 4 or p. 427

b. **NOTHING** more practical in theology than **your child observing your TRUSTING GOD** = in actions and words.

4) **TEACH** your child these (3) indisputable truths

a. 1st God's Word leads us to salvation = ® Romans 3: 22-25 or p. 859

b. 2nd God's Word directs us to wisdom = ® Proverbs 2: 1-8 or p. 482

c. 3rd the Scriptures alone gives peace = ® John 14: 27 or p. 824

Perhaps the most desired possession in the world is peace, but it
can only be found in the Lord.

C. (3) pieces of encouragements for parents today:

a. 1st = Never underestimate the providence of God.

✚ The doctrine of divine providence asserts that God is in complete control of all things. He is sovereign over the universe as a whole (Psalm 103:19)

"The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything."

✚ BE ENCOURAGED-- the story isn't over. Don't get discouraged = don't throw in the towel. The sovereign hand of God is still working!

b. 2nd = Never underestimate the significance of a disciple.

✚ Who you are becoming as a disciple of Christ = most important aspect of your legacy--Some of us come from humble beginnings, obscure places. Remain faithful to God and listen to His word as His spirit speaks to you!

c. 3rd = NEVER TOO LATE TO START. (my older brother Scott reminded me the first time he ever heard my dad pray = 55 years old!

D. 2nd priority in laying a godly foundation & leaving a godly legacy = Honor
FAMILY

✚ Practical Theology LOOKSLIKE in real time (rubber hits the road)

1) **2nd best gift you can give** your child/children is to honor their mother

- i. **Ephesians 5: 25** says, “Husbands must love your wives w/the same love Christ showed the church.”
- ii. Cultivate unselfishness in your marriage – Be willing to serve your spouse & place your family’s needs above your own.

2) Godly dads find authentic ways to connect with their child/children. Here are **TWO QUESTIONS** you should know about your child/children:

i. **#1 How are my kids really doing?**

- ✓ We can’t just look at our kids’ outward appearance. We need to also pay attention to their inward condition. How’s their mood? How are they doing emotionally?
- ✓ **DON’T GET TIRED...even when you are whipped...hang tuff!**

i. **#2 Am I connecting with my kids on a deep level?**

- ✓ **Paul Faulkner in his book**, ‘Achieving Success w-out Failing your Family’ describes a speech where his daughter was in attendance.
- ✓ Paul Faulkner was quite a successful insurance executive. ‘...in the middle of his talk he had turned to her and asked, ‘**Sweetheart, do you remember the time I won the million dollar roundtable three years in a row?**’ She said I don’t think so.
- ✓ Then he asked ‘**Well do you remember when we used to have those Dairy Queen dates.** She smiled and said of course.”
- ✓ And then he turned to the audience to make the point that daughters don’t remember when you sell a million dollars worth of insurance, **but they do remember special dates!**
- ✓ **Godly dads understand** that there will always be more time to make money **but** there will not always be time to take your child on a special date.

E. **SO WHY** is it so critical to **HONOR GOD** by laying a godly foundation *and* leaving a godly legacy:

✚ The **story of Jonathan Edwards** is an example of what some sociologists call the **"(5) generation rule."** How a parent raises their child **influences not only their child but the four generations to follow**. What fathers do, in other words, will reach through the next five generations. The **example of Jonathan Edwards** shows just how rich that legacy can be.

✚ *Benjamin B. Warfield of Princeton* has charted the 1,394 known descendents of Edwards. Of his known descendents there were 13 college presidents, 65 college professors, 30 judges, 100 lawyers, 60 physicians, 75 army and navy officers, 100 pastors, 60 authors of prominence, 3 United States senators, 80 public servants in other capacities including governors and ministers to foreign countries, and one vice-president of the United States.

✚ But the **(5) Generation Rule** works both ways. If we fail to work at being good fathers, our neglect can plague generations. Consider the case of Max Jukes, a contemporary of Edwards. As an adult, Jukes had a drinking problem that kept him from holding a steady job. It also kept him from showing much concern for his wife and children. He would disappear sometimes for days and return drunk. He made little time for loving and instructing his children. *Benjamin Warfield has also charted Jukes' descendents*. What he found further supports the **(5) Generation Rule**.

✚ Warfield was able to trace 540 of Jukes' ancestors. They offer a stunning contrast to the Edwards' legacy. Of Jukes' known descendents, 310 died as paupers, at least 150 were criminals (including 7 murderers), more than 100 were drunkards and half of his female descendents ended up as prostitutes.

✚ Of course *this doesn't mean that people are simply a product of their parenting* and that **who they are** is *determined entirely by their ancestry*. There have been many who descended from men like Jukes and overcame great obstacles to succeed. Others have come from loving homes like Edwards' only to descend into a troubled adulthood. **But these are the exceptions, not the rule.**

Practical Theology LOOKSLIKE *in real time* (rubber hits the road)