

INTRO: Last week I spent a sermon speaking to the Dad's of our church and I honestly wish I could speak to the dad's of our nation about their growing up and becoming the dad that they were designed by God to be. A dad who can be respected and honored and loved because of just who they are and how they live and those that have had such a dad are blessed beyond all measure and certainly God was smiling upon them to allow them to be led by a godly father. Every day of my life I consider myself a blessed man because of the Father I had and many of my decisions today were inspired by my Father and much of the man I am today I owe to the example set by my father. When I preached my Dad's Funeral I emphasized his legacy in his ministry and his life but his legacy in his children is what's important in my life and for that legacy, I am thankful and I consider myself blessed. His love for his children and his wife were unquestionable and though not a very emotional man, I never once doubted his love. I want to speak to you today whose father is still with you and even those whose father's have passed away for their influence lives on through you and especially am I speaking about godly dads, which I am sure all of those here today are striving for and should be living as.

- A.** Children, let me give you a few statistics that may help you respect or see your dad in a little different light – ... **“ALMOST 75 PERCENT OF AMERICAN CHILDREN LIVING IN FATHERLESS HOUSEHOLDS WILL EXPERIENCE POVERTY BEFORE THE AGE OF ELEVEN, COMPARED TO ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THOSE RAISED BY TWO PARENTS. CHILDREN LIVING IN HOMES WHERE FATHERS ARE ABSENT ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE EXPELLED FROM OR DROP OUT OF SCHOOL, DEVELOP EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS, COMMIT SUICIDE, AND FALL VICTIM TO CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT. THE MALES ARE ALSO FAR MORE LIKELY TO BECOME VIOLENT CRIMINALS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, MEN WHO GREW UP WITHOUT DADS CURRENTLY REPRESENT 70 PERCENT OF THE PRISON POPULATION SERVING LONG-TERM SENTENCES.”** SOURCE: Michael G. Moriarty, *The Perfect 10: The Blessings of Following God's Commandments in a Post Modern World*, p. 113. But you may say, my Dad makes mistakes, my Dad does not always do what's right, my Dad just does not understand, etc. Well, what would life be without him? Would you be better off, could you survive and grow up to become the man or woman that you desire to be? All I know is having a Dad at the home is a blessing and even with all his shortcomings, and we all have them, it is much better than the alternative. A child left in a home without a Dad, especially a son perhaps more so than the daughter, is at a tremendous disadvantage and if yours is still here and you are still a youth at home, be grateful, be respectful and realize you are blessed.
- B.** Something also interesting about dads is that they are usually not as sentimental as moms and there are reasons for this. **I HEARD OF A YOUNG MOTHER WHO WENT DOWN TO THE NURSERY AT A HOSPITAL AND FOUND HER YOUNG HUSBAND PEERING DOWN AT HIS NEWBORN BABY WHO WAS ASLEEP. THE MOTHER COULD TELL HE WAS CAPTIVATED BY THE SCENE AS HE STOOD THERE LOOKING AT THE SLEEPING INFANT. SHE WAS SO TOUCHED THAT FINALLY SHE TIPTOED UP BEHIND HIM AND SLIPPED HER ARM THROUGH HIS AND SAID, "HONEY, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT. HE SAID, "I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE ABLE TO MAKE A CRIB LIKE THIS FOR \$89.95." FOR THE MOST PART FATHERS ARE NOT AS SENTIMENTAL.** There are times in their lives when they must make decisions not based upon emotions or sentimentalism for the good of the family and that clear head is needed at that time. However, it must be said that most dads are more emotional than they would ever want to let on and our hearts are stirred and broken just like moms, but because of the responsibility that God has given us, we must learn to control those at times in order to make the right decisions. So do not ever think that godly dad is not concerned, cause he is; do not ever think dad does not care, cause he does; do not ever think dad does not understand, cause he does; do not ever think dad cannot cry, cause he can; do not ever think dad does not love you; cause he does and would give his life in a minute for you. A godly dad always has the welfare of his family as a top priority and as a godly dad, does what is necessary for the well-being of that wife and children. Even to the point of sacrificing his own desires, if necessary, for their welfare.
- C.** Kids, sometimes fathers have to make decisions that are not always popular with you. Sometimes that have to go to work even at inopportune times but any dad that is worth being a dad would much rather spend the day with their children and a godly dad simply at times, has to do what is necessary for the benefit of the children and the welfare of the family. Too much work and staying away from the family is not a good thing, but dads are also responsible for supporting the family, therefore, they have duties outside the family that they must also handle so, as children, we need to understand this – dads sometimes have to be in other places to do what is best for you. But dad's, be wise in your decisions and make sure you are there as much as possible – especially when the kids need you. **DAVID ELKIND, A PSYCHOLOGIST, TELLS THE STORY OF VISITING HIS MIDDLE SON'S NURSERY SCHOOL CLASS, AT THE REQUEST OF HIS TEACHER. SHE WANTED HIM TO OBSERVE A "PROBLEM CHILD" IN THE CLASS. WHILE HE WAS THERE, HE CAUGHT A CONVERSATION BETWEEN HIS SON AND SOME OTHER BOYS. THERE CONVERSATION WENT LIKE THIS. CHILD A: "MY DADDY IS A DOCTOR AND**

HE MAKES LOTS OF MONEY AND WE HAVE A SWIMMING POOL." CHILD B: "MY DADDY IS A LAWYER AND HE FLIES TO WASHINGTON AND TALKS TO THE PRESIDENT." CHILD C: "MY DADDY OWNS A COMPANY AND WE HAVE OUR OWN AIRPLANE." THEN DAVID ELKIND'S BOY SAID, "MY DADDY IS HERE!" AND HE PROUDLY LOOKED IN HIS FATHER'S DIRECTION. (JAMES S. HEWETT, ILLUSTRATIONS UNLIMITED, P.197) DADS, YOUR PRESENCE MEANS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO YOUR CHILDREN - MORE THAN YOUR MONEY, MORE THAN YOUR POSITION AT WORK, MORE THAN THE TOYS YOU BUY THEM. YOUR TIME MEANS MORE TO THEM THAN ANYTHING ELSE, BECAUSE IT SAYS, "I CARE." A godly dad will never forget why they are working though and they will treasure the moments they can be with their family. To this day, being with my family is one of my greatest pleasures. Even though my wife and I have gotten used to silence in the house since the kids have left home, it is wonderful to have them around for they help to keep us young and help us to realize we are still loved and maybe we did something right when we were raising them. Kids, a real mom and dad never get tired of receiving love from their children and when those kids and grandkids come over, those parental eyes should light out and their hearts should be a little lighter. So, as parents should not neglect their children – children, do not neglect your parents. I see so many children today that seem to want to get rid of their parents when they get old cause they are too much trouble, and I realize they really can be; but I also think about what kind of trouble we were when we were small but they did not give up on us. I realize some parents get to a point where it is almost impossible for the children to help anymore, but we should still see to it that whatever is necessary, we give them the best help we possibly can.

D. If you have had a dad, a real dad, how grateful you should be. There is the man that with your mom's help, gave birth to you and then there is a "dad" and sometimes, though it should not be, they are not the same. **A FATHER ISN'T A DAD BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN YOU 'LIFE'. OR JUST BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER IS HIS WIFE. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, A FATHER MAY NOT CARE. DAD WILL ASK ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM, AND LET YOU KNOW HE IS THERE. A FATHER THINKS THAT RESPECT IS DUE HIM RIGHTLY. A DAD KNOWS THAT RESPECT IS EARNED, AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. A FATHER MAY BE TOO BUSY TO TAKE TIME TO TALK TO YOU. A DAD WILL MAKE THE TIME, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HE HAS TO DO. YOUR FATHER IS YOUR FATHER AND THAT IS HIS STAND. YOUR DAD MAY BE YOUR FATHER AND CAN ALSO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND. WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO TO BED, A FATHER WILL TELL YOU TO TURN OUT THE LIGHT. BUT A DAD WILL TUCK YOU IN, AND TELL YOU "GOOD NIGHT". YOUR FATHER AND YOUR DAD MAY BE ONE IN THE SAME. AND A STEP-FATHER CAN BE YOUR DAD EVEN IF ONLY IN NAME. STILL WONDER WHAT MAKES A FATHER A DAD? YOUR FATHER IS THE ONE THAT GAVE YOUR LIFE A START. YOUR DAD IS THE ONE THAT REMAINS IN YOUR HEART.** My greatest desire concerning my children is to be a dad to them and not just the one that helped give them life. But as all real dads know, that takes work, that takes effort, that takes sacrifice. In the heart and mind of the real dad, there is nothing too great to sacrifice for that family God has given him the privilege of being part of and he takes the responsibility that God has given him seriously and does his best to fulfill what God intended him to do and would never want to lose the trust that God has put in him and his family has put in him.

CONCLUSION: Children, the text we read says to "**Honor the father...**" and that includes having a high opinion of them and hold them in what we call high esteem and one other thing that shows honor more than anything else is what I have told you for years. What really shows honor to your parents, what can you do that will show more respect and honor than you could imagine and will prove to your fathers that you respect him? Obedience!!! Come when they call, go where they send you, do what they ask you, do not do what they forbid you to do and do it all cheerfully from a spirit of love. Listen to their counsel and their corrections and that will go a long way in fulfilling that commandment, which is the first commandment with promise. And children, there may be a day in your future when that dad, as well as that mom, may need your help. Be there for them when it is necessary as godly children raised by a godly father, and you will have fulfilled that commandment of God. Father's Day is every day of the year and if you have a loving, godly "dad", your life will be blessed and his influence will last. Show him you love him and appreciate all the sacrifices he makes on your behalf and you may find out, he will even be a better "dad"! God bless all the godly dads that have done what they have been called upon to do to be the loving husband of your mom and to be there when you, as his child, needs him.