

For Fathers

Robert Johnson

Father's Day is a day set aside for honoring fathers, whether present or only in memory. It is appropriate to consider both the role and importance of dads, especially in today's society. The past few years have brought confusion regarding the role of fathers, whether their role is essential or not. Despite those who clamor for a merging or elimination of traditional mother/father roles in the family, they are fundamental to the well-being of the family and of society. Statistics indicate over 80% of juveniles in trouble (at school, with authorities, etc.) come from single parent homes, or homes with someone other than parents as primary caregivers. Being a father is an essential responsibility for healthy families.

In a very real sense, fathers should serve as examples of our Heavenly Father, demonstrating genuine love, discipline and concern for their children. This is what Paul encouraged when he wrote, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). To bring up children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord implies the need of fathers to be committed to the Lord and His will for their lives. Such fathers are by no means perfect, but in realizing God's love for them, and how He works all things for their good (Romans 8:28), they seek to exemplify those same qualities for their children's sake. Such fathers are worthy of respect and honor (Ephesians 6:2).

These qualities of fatherhood were seen in Abraham. Like all of us, Abraham had his faults, but he loved God and his son Isaac (Genesis 22:2, 12), which speaks volumes about him seeking the best for his child. Regarding this, God Himself testified, "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him" (Genesis 18:19). When a father seeks this kind of attitude, he will offer his best for others because he offers what comes from God, the Father of mercies (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Thank God for such fathers, for they are essential for our children's future. May we honor such by seeking to put the spiritual first in our lives, exemplifying what life is really all about.

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Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. - Jeremiah 17:7

News & Notes

MAIN ELEVATOR: Out of Service for repairs. Please use the Lift at the front of the building until further notice.

BAPTISM: Brooke Akers. We rejoice with Brooke and her family.

CONFESSION: Mae McMahan.

VBS SUCCESSFUL: Thanks to the teachers, to all who attended, and any who helped in any way to make VBS a success.

MOVED MEMBERSHIP HERE: Tracey Leslie (daughter of Jim & Linda Hall). **Todd, Tracey & Allie Leslie**, 11876 Leslie Road, Lisbon, OH 44432, (330) 383-4546. Welcome to the Leslie Family.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP: July 10-15 at Tomlinson Run State Park. Registration packets available. If you can volunteer to help in some way, sign up on the sheets in the foyer. **Bible study for Wednesday, July 12th will be at camp, NOT at the church building.**

NIAGARA FALLS TRIP: Monday, July 31st to Wednesday, August 2nd. Rooms will be \$200 per night (two queen beds per room). Additional costs will be for transportation, meals, and any charges for attractions. **TODAY is the last day to sign up.** See Rico for details.

PANTRY: Canned carrots.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Trinity Hospital (Hospice), Steubenville: Mike West. **At Home:** Peggy Williams, Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Becky McKittrick, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

Satan's Lies

Cecil May, Jr.

Jesus said of Satan, "He is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44 ESV). Even if his words have a grain of truth in them, his assertions will always be half-truths, designed to deceive. I sometimes preach a sermon to young people I call, "All Satan's Apples Have Worms."

Satan told Eve, "You will not surely die, For God knows that when you eat of it, you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5). Indeed, as the name of the tree suggested, when they ate, they knew good and evil, but not like God. They knew evil by disobeying God and thus participating in it. God never knew evil by doing evil. Satan lied again.

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The Golden Rule

The Multitudes gathered
Too many to count,
And when He was sat
He spoke from the mount.

"Do Unto Others," were
The words He said,
"Don't hate your enemies,
But love them instead."

The Teacher gave the world
This golden rule:
"Do as you would have others
To do unto you."

Dennis Doughty, editor
Magnolia Messenger

