

Bridgeway Community Church
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Father's Day
June 19, 2022

Father's Day 2022

"Happy Father's Day to all you men out there...those of us that are remembering our fathers today. Today is a great day...to take a moment to honor the men that brought us into this world. The men that raised us. The men that have guided us. Happy Father's Day."

You might have one dad, two dads, a bonus dad, a spiritual father, a biological father, godfather, step-father, father-in-law, a father that has passed on.

You might call your dad: dad, pops, dada, daddy, papa, old man, papi, appa, baba.

Your relationship with you dad might be good, bad, non-existent, estranged, healing, painful, reconciled or just plain complicated.

"We do want to take a moment...and just celebrate the good ones! The good dads! To the dads that are killin' it. To the ones that even though they don't have it all figured out, they are all in when it comes to raising their kids. They coach the team, help with homework, they make lunches, they talk about hard things, they model healthy relationships, they discipline with wisdom, they lead family devotions, they take the mantle of spiritual covering for the family very seriously, they apologize when they're wrong, they take care of their own health, they give grace to others, they are faithful to their wife, they don't hesitate to say the words 'I love you.' To those dads that are exhausted at the end of the day and they come home and they sit down, they take that sigh of relief and every now and then they might even say 'its worth it.'"

"We can tell that they consciously think about the connection between the way that you parent and what your children and your spouse come to believe about the love of our Heavenly Father. That he loves us the way that He loves."

"It's to you messed up, dressed up, classy sons of...guns - 'Happy Father's Day.'"

There is "The Guy" that gets called in when everyone else is nervous, to step up and solve a problem, fix something that's broken, save the day. Accomplish something.

Then there is "That Guy" - the one that doesn't follow through, that misses the important event, doesn't text somebody back, spills the drink, makes excuses, or thinks he can wing it when everyone else comes prepared.

I want to talk about the #1 pitfall that dads can fall in to and the practical things we can do to rise above it.

"I'm sorry, I feel like sometimes scripture has it coming for you. Have you ever felt like scripture is coming at you? You're actually reading to make sure that it wasn't written TO you or by somebody who has a grudge out to get you? Making sure the publication date wasn't yesterday?"

I promise you that even though this passage is going to be coming down on people pretty hard, This isn't going to turn into being a dad bashing session.

Amos 6:1-7 NIV84

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come!

² Go to Kal-neh and look at it; go from there to great Ha-math, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours?

³ You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror.

⁴ You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves.

⁵ You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments.

⁶ You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.

⁷ Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

Now let's revisit that question I asked you a minute ago... What would be the ideal Father's Day?

- Lie on your bed
- Lounge on your couch
- Enjoy a nice steak
- Listen to your music
- Drink wine by the bowlful
- Use the finest lotions

This is literally a description of Father's Day. Ugh! Which really sucks because the first words of the passage are "woe to you."

"But there's a word in there that I think changes everything, because comfort isn't the enemy, comfort isn't the problem. It's this word and it's there in the very first part of the passage.

Amos 6:1 NIV84

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come!

Complacency

Complacent - it's a word that talks about our unwillingness to engage. A willingness to engage with all those sweet, sweet comforts and get rid of our responsibilities.

You can not have influence and be complacent at the same time.

THE THREE CHARACTER TRAITS TO COMBAT COMPLACENCY

1. Courageous

Verse 3 says: "You put off the day of disaster"

Amos 6:3 NIV84

You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror.

The complacent people around in that time were putting off the day of disaster. There was a judgement coming off and instead of engaging with that which was difficult...they kept it at a distance and they said 'Nah...not me.'

Avoiding the difficult. Avoiding the overwhelming. Avoiding the tough topics. Avoiding the unknown.

The first quality of a dad that has the character trait that combats complacency is courage.

I don't always know what I am doing, but as a dad I know my calling goes beyond my confidence.

"What happens when your calling goes beyond your confidence? What you need courage! And courage, not rooted in myself, but rooted in the Lord. And that's where we exist as dads."

We have positioned our lives in such a way where we are not snake handling boa constrictors, but dads are still called to be "The Guy" to take care of their families in unexpected, unplanned, in orthodox ways.

Our kids are working through topics and issues that no one really helped us wrestle with.

- Making wise decisions around gender and sexual health
- Economic security and wise financial decisions
- Mental health and navigating sensitive relational conflict
- Cultural fluency and respect

One tough topic that I have ahead of me with my 8 year old little girl is this topic of racial division & damage within our country. Honestly I don't know how to address all these topics in a way that deals with the reality of the brokenness of this world while also directing her to bring light into the darkness. Its a constant thought of mine to just "wait until she's older" which is code for "Its too hard to do it now so maybe I'll just put this off for a while longer"

Sometimes being "the guy" means knowing when to call in for backup when something might be beyond your ability.

"But that's where we go with courage. We step into conversation, step into topics that might be a little bit overwhelming. Sometimes courage is talking. Sometimes courage, as a dad, is listening and not saying that thing you wanna say."

"Have you ever thought as a dad what it means to have the courage to listen to our kids? That you say, 'I hear you.' That you say, 'tell me more.' That you say, 'I'm not going to respond right now, not because I don't have anything to say, but I am not going to respond because I really just want understand you.'"

2. Consistent

Galatians 6:9 NIV84

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Question: What are those consistent things we can do over and over and over again to make sure our kids know we are the type of family that does what?

Maybe as a father you don't want to pick EVERYTHING to start doing...or feel like you have to get it ALL right. But what are the things that you'll be consistent in?

3. Connected

Proverbs 1:32-33 NIV84

For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ but whoever listens to me (THE WISDOM OF THE LORD) will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.

"Throughout all of Amos he's really challenging people to be careful to not fall into injustice and unrighteousness and having this show of religion without having any of the back up of your actions. He is saying you've got to actually have a real relationship with the Lord if you're actually going to be a person who doesn't end up at this complacent level, living in luxury with no real purpose or power."

"You know, having a connection with the Lord is not just about you and your relationship with the Lord. It's about these demonstrations of what it looks like to have the power of God move through you and your relationships. They see how you treat your neighbors. They see how you treat your parents."

One day when your kids are launched off on their own with all of its complexities, they will say, 'How did dad deal with his issues when overwhelmed? When things didn't seem to go his way? Oh yeah! He went back to something so much greater than him. He went to the Lord. He read the Scriptures. He processed his role in light of his relationship with the Lord.'

"I think in every heart of a father, there's something innate where we want to launch our kids off into the world...to be these amazing, fully functioning, contributing, powerful people, men and women that change the world, love life and love others."

Concluding story: "You look like your dad."

"The essential piece of being connected to the Lord as a dad is for the purpose that we want to look like our heavenly father. When someone looks at us, when our kids look at us, they would look at us and they would say, 'You look like your father. He loved with sacrifice. He was consistently committed to you...He demonstrated what it meant to be connected, fully connected.'"

So eat your steak, lounge on your couch, listen to your music, you can even drink your bowl full of wine, I want you to remember that we do that on Father's Day because the next day when we wake up, we get back to the grind...and we work hard to be courageous, to be consistent, to be connected, to be dad.