

A Happy Father's Day

Psalms 128

Introduction: This is Father's Day. And although dads, we may take second place on special our day to mothers on Mother's Day, don't let that discourage you because, we are more and more understanding the importance of a father's role in the family. In the ideal family, God intends for there to be a mother and a father for those children. So, when we want to know what the role of the mother and father is supposed to be in the home, we go to the Bible to find out. When it comes to fathers, in the Bible, you'll find fathers that were good fathers, and you find fathers that were bad fathers. The Bible tells the real in a situation. However, the Bible also presents us the ideal. It shows the biblical principles, models, and examples of how a father is intended to be; and what God wants a father to be. When we go to the Word of God, we do so to get some help. So, on this special day for our dads, that is what I want to do – turn to the Bible to get some help. This morning I'm looking at what I call the "Happy Father's Day Psalm." If you want to be a happy father and if you want to have a happy Father's Day, this psalm gives us the help we need to accomplish both.

Notice the first thing this Psalm points out to us is that...

I. The happy father gives attention to his faith:

In the opening two verses of this Psalm, it not only talks about faith but also more specifically, a man's faith. Notice the faith of this man given to us in the Word of God.

A. You will see his faith, first of all, in his love for the Lord. (v. 1)

1. The word "fear" in the Old Testament is a word for respect, reverence, and awe for the Lord.
2. It's the Old Testament way of the New Testament way, of saying put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Love Jesus Christ for all He has done for you and invite Him into your heart and to be Lord of your life.

Dads, the wisest decision you will ever make in your entire life, is your decision to give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ and make Christ the center of your life. (Phil. 1:21)

B. You'll see a happy father's faith, is also in his life for the Lord.

- The fear of the Lord is our inward life.
 - Walking in His ways is our outward life.
1. Here is a picture of someone who is using the Lord as a road map for his life. (Ps. 119:105)
 2. There are some men today who have lost their way and you know it.

C. You'll also see a happy father's faith and his labor for the Lord. (v. 2)

1. There is something deeply satisfying about labor.
Long before sin entered the Garden of Eden God put His blessings upon labor when He gave Adam a job. (Gen. 2:15)
God intends for men to work. God intends for men to labor and provide for their family. (1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:10)
2. There is something noble about work. And in all we do, we are to do it as unto the Lord (we never labor in vain, when we do what we do for God's glory, and He will bless us for it (1 Cor. 15:58).

II. The happy father gives attention to his family:

A. The happy father understands the importance of family. (vv. 3 -4)

1. These verses takes us inside the home. Home is where the heart is and where our family lives.
2. Dad. *What is it like for your family and spouse living in your home with you?*

B. The happy father understands his influence over his family (Ps. 127:1!)

1. In his wife (v.3) (Eph. 5:22-29)
2. In his children (v.4) (Mk. 10:14 Prov. 22:6)

III. The happy father gives attention to his future: (v.5-6)

A. This is a political promise -

1. God is promising the father who will put his faith in the Lord and be the kind of man he ought to be in his family, national blessings.
2. When fathers are what they ought to be in a nation and when they lift the ethical and spiritual level of their own behavior and their own families, it is invariably that, that lifts the level and the standards of the entire nation. (Eph. 5:22-6:4)

B. Then he promises personal blessings. (v.6)

1. There's something special about our children and grandchildren, (they are our future...).
2. There is something rewarding in seeing your hard work, influence and prayers produce good results.

We are so prone to remember that God judges the succeeding generations if they imitate the sins of their ancestors, but we must remember that He also passes along the blessings when the ancestors have been godly (Ex 34:6-7; Num 14:18-19; Deut 5:9-10).

- a. I also know some of you are plagued by the heartbreak of a prodigal child or grandchild.
- b. We unfortunately are not promised or guaranteed our children and grandchildren will follow the Lord (no matter how much we set the example, instruct them, or pray for them). (Prov. 22:6) is a biblical principle not a promise.

If your heart is hurting today over a child or grandchild who went astray, *let me encourage you...*

- c. Like the prodigal son's father – Never give up hope because God is always able to turn the hearts of men and women (for with God all things are possible! (Lk. 1:37)

Conclusion: Well, Dads, we want to wish you a happy Father's Day today! (We celebrate you, honor you, love you for all you are to us). Maybe we don't get the same fan fair mom does on her special day – but today we do acknowledge the importance of a father's role in the family. And as difficult of a role as it is we have to turn to God's Word for wisdom and understanding about how to carry out our role as God has designed it. Today we can say with absolute certainty, if you want to be a happy father and if you want to have a happy Father's Day, this psalm gives us all the help we need to accomplish both.

I pray today, will be a very special for you and every day going forward will find you being a happy father.