

June 18, 2023 – Who Needs Fathers Anyway?

Ephesians 6:1-4

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4, NIV)

Introduction

Our current culture is straying away from the important role of fathers, often depicting them as clueless, inept, or even subservient to their children. In Ephesians 5:21-33, John lays out instructions for Christian households and immediately follows it up by repeating the commandment to honor your father and mother so that we can lead a happy and joyful life. Why is the role of a father so important? What happens when fathers are absent and what does a godly father look like?

1. Why is obeying our parents so important that God made it one of His commandments? (Ephesians 6:2-3)

a) Despite our sinful nature, God understands the need for parents.

b) What happens when we fail to heed this warning.

2. What roles does an ideal father play? (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6)

a) How we can use God’s example.

b) We will never be perfect but being available is good enough.

3. How do we measure up to these roles?

a) First start with unconditional love.

b) God has given us a guidebook to follow.

Conclusion

Fatherhood is a blessing from God. ³Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. ⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. ⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them” (Psalms 127:3-5). Being a father is not about biology, but about fulfilling the role that God has defined for us to build strong families and lasting legacies. Strong families will result in good children who respect their parents, love the Lord, and grow up to be the foundation for future generations.

For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:

- 1) Practice quieting and CAKE(S) before sharing recent stories of escaping “enemy mode.”
- 2) Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4 and share on thing that God has placed on your heart.
- 3) Pray for all fathers to be strong Christian leaders for the next generation.

Hope Chapel Honolulu News

Membership Covenants – If you would like to renew your annual membership covenant, please see our check-in team in the greeting area.

Love Feast – Our next Love Feast is Sunday, 7/30 at 10 a.m. Please note that there will be no 8 a.m. service on this date due to the preparations involved.

Missions Gathering – Our next missions gathering with the Foursquare Pacific District is Friday and Saturday, 8/25-26 at HCH! Stay tuned for more information.

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