



Father's Day

As Americans everywhere pause to honor their fathers, on Father's Day, it is good to remind ourselves of its beginning.



The most widely accepted story on the origin of Father's Day comes from Spokane, Washington. Sonora Smart Dodd, who grew up without a mother, was looking for a way to publicly recognize, thank and honor her father who had raised six children single-handedly. She brought the idea to her minister and church members who embraced the idea and held the first Father's Day celebration on June 19, 1909.

The day as it was established was well meaning, but it is impossible to improve on Scripture. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Because there is a link between honoring our parents and honoring God, we need to be aware of the unintended consequences of establishing one day to honor parents; people tend to forget the history that led to the establishment of this day of honor and begin to act as if it is the only day that they should or need to honor their parents.

We can also see how the law of unintended consequences can impact our relationship with God. For instance, if we are not careful, the term "Lord's Day" can come to mean Sunday is the only day that belongs to God and, therefore, is the only time we pause to worship, praise and honor Him. Left uncorrected, this concept can take root and lead Continued on the next page.....

