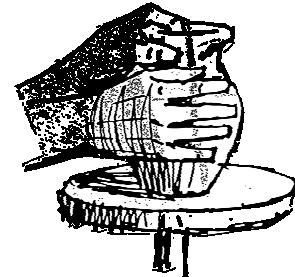


His Workmanship: Westside

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus for good works.”*
—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

Honoring Fathers When Some Aren't Honorable, by Sam Serio

Father's Day is a difficult day for many people. Not everyone wants to hear the command and admonition to honor and obey his father. It's not because some are less spiritual, but because the relationship with their father is a painful memory, rather than a happy one. Some don't even know their fathers; others have dads who abandoned them. Others are abusive or continue to make life painful for their offspring. It's an emotional day for many. This relationship with their earthly father affects their relationship with God Who wants to be their heavenly Father. They never tell you why they avoided church. They never tell anyone.

Uncover family secrets. Some families have secrets that have been carefully tucked away for no one ever to discover. Remember the story of David and Bathsheba, which was eventually followed by one son's rape of his half-sister in 2 Samuel 11-13? This is a must-read for Father's Day. Brother Absalom kept it all a secret while harboring a murderous rage at his father's inability to protect Tamar or bring her rapist Amnon to justice. Eventually Absalom lashed out. Tamar remained a devastated woman for the rest of her days. Most likely there are Absaloms and Tamars today—some who try to

hide sin, and some who try to hide sadness. As students of God's Word, we should be the least surprised at family dysfunction and sexual deception—God's word shows us sin!

Father's Day is a great opportunity to honor fathers. However, it is also a huge obstacle that some face as they endeavor to live the life Christ wants us to live. Many can be grateful for their dads. Others remember only humiliation or intimidation. Encourage both those whose memories of their fathers are joyful and those with memories they'd rather forget. Father's Day elicits an immense variety of emotions. Some adult children and their children are still reaping the consequences of the sins of their fathers. This day can re-open wounds they tried to heal and restore memories they tried to erase.

Honoring a father who has done dishonorable things can feel impossible. Some people find their emotions getting all stirred up on Father's Day, and they don't even know why.

Meet Cathy, Jim, and Fred. Cathy was molested by her father for 10 years. Dad would quote to her, "*Honor your father.*" Cathy's father went to his grave without ever acknowledging his sin against her, and now she lives with deep anger and confusion. When any-

one reminds her of her father, it instantly brings back feelings of rage that she has tried to repress her entire life. She has been in and out of relationships and jobs. When asked to entertain the idea of a heavenly Father who loved her, Cathy was not interested in the least. She was physically and emotionally repulsed by the idea of trusting her future to any type of father.

Jim doesn't like Father's Day because it reminds him of the child he never had because of abortion. When his girlfriend told him she was pregnant, he panicked. He will never forget driving her to the abortion clinic. He will always wonder what his little one looked like. He grieves. He has flashbacks and nightmares now. Jim knows he is a father, but no one else in the church knows. After hearing a preacher speak forcefully against abortion, he knew he could never confess his sin, so he has kept very quiet. Instead, he teaches young children to try to prove to God how sorry he is for choosing to abort. On Father's Day he tries to smile but feels completely guilty.

Fred's father showed him pornography throughout his teenage years. He wanted his boy to "*become a real man.*" Fred's mother left home after tiring of
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“We have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect.” —Hebrews 12:9

the addiction and the affairs. What he remembers most about his dad are the adult magazines and videos. He is still single and has difficulty dating since he has seen so many naked women, thanks to Dad. Happy Father's Day? **Heal hearts.** People have all sorts of “father issues.” We are not witch-hunting or male-bashing. Our calling is heart-healing. That's our goal on this and every day. God's Word speaks to every situation and sadness. The God of all grace sympathizes with our feelings of being weak and wounded, even by our family. God heals the broken-hearted and puts the fatherless in families, Ps 147:3; 68:5-6. What an opportunity to demonstrate that we are not as careless and clueless about sin as people think we are! Speak softly and tenderly as you mention these unmentionables. There's silent suffering going on in churches, especially on Father's Day. People are filled with bittersweet emotions. Many try to reconcile a good heavenly Father with their flawed earthly father. They wonder why God did not protect them from what happened. They have questions that will only be answered in heaven, but they need life-giving words from God now.

Speak in an approachable and invitational way, so that people will feel safe and welcome in your presence, even with their family secrets. Encourage those close to you to confess. Allow others to grieve, publicly or privately. Speak wisely but not glibly about forgiveness and honor. Let people know you understand the fallenness of earthly fathers; point friends to our perfect heavenly Father Who only gives good gifts. Pray for all. For those who don't know their earthly dads, single moms should be honored today, too.

Father's Day is the best time to remind us that we can have a relationship with a new Father, even though we might

have had a rocky road with our earthly father. It's a time of hope and healing and fresh starts. As Christians, we get to offer some people a relationship with a perfect heavenly Father who does no wrong whatsoever. Every good and perfect gift comes from our heavenly Father who does not change, like earthly fathers do, Jas 1:17. In Him we have what our hearts have longed for: a Dad who is really a good One! Healing and relationship—that's the message we have for people who hurt on Father's Day.

A Father's Responsibility

by Mike Jones

“...For I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He has promised him,” Gen 18:18-19.

Fathers, Your responsibilities are awesome. You need help. Your Heavenly Father wants to enable you to be the father you should be. You have the responsibility to Lead your family:

Leave your parents, **Love** your wife, **Learn** to understand wife and children. **The Provider.** A father is charged with providing for his family: *“if any does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel,”* 1 Tim 5:8.

Paul said, *“if any would not work, neither should he eat,”* 2 Thes 3:10. It is the father's responsibility to provide food, clothing, and shelter for his family. The entrance of sin into the world meant that man had to earn his living by the sweat of his brow, Gen 3:19. This turned work into a JOB instead of a JOY. But then God gave us gifts to allow us to turn our labor into joy again. A) The privilege of providing for a family—this meets some deep inner need of man and makes him feel complete; cf. Gen 30:30; 45:11; 47:12; 50:21; Num

11:22; 2 Sam 19:32-33; 2 Chr 2:7; Ezra 7:20; Ezek 46:18; Lk 8:3; Ax 20:34; 28:10. Provision includes the necessities of spiritual life as well as physical life, Lk 12:33. Just as God provided food, shelter, and clothing to His people, He also provided them atonement for their sins, Gen 22:8,14; Deut 21:8; 32:43; 2 Chr 30:18; Ps 65:3, 9; 68:10; 78:20; 79:9; 132:15; Pr 16:6; Jer 33:9; Ezek 16:63; Mt 26:53; Heb 11:40. A godly father, like Abraham, will follow Deut 6:6-9: *“These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

B) The new birth—the presence of Christ in a man's heart changes work from wearisome into wonderful. *“Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light,”* Mt 11:28-30.

The Protector. Families need an authority. The lack of such authority can be seen in today's society: suicide, drug abuse, alcoholism, and sexual promiscuity are epidemic among teenagers. An estimated 20 teens attempt to end their lives every 30 minutes. Approximately 685 teens become drug users every 30 minutes. Some 23 teenage girls have abortions every 30 minutes. More than 3 million American teenagers have been treated for alcoholism since 1980. About 9,000 teenagers are killed each year while driving drunk. Protection goes along with authority; when we rebel, we move outside God's protection, Num 14:9; Is 22:8.

A) Fathers have to be worthy of authority and accept that responsibility. Re-continued on p. 3



God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Father's Responsibility, from p. 2
spect needs to be earned by consistent righteous living and showing respect to others.

B) Wives are commanded by God to give respect to the husband: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as to the Lord... Let the wife see that she respects her husband," Eph 5:22, 33. She provides the example to the children of honoring authority.

The Punisher. "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly," Pr 13:24. A father shows his love by his discipline: "My son, do not despise the discipline of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He disciplines, and punishes every son whom He receives," Heb 12:5-11, quoting Job 5:17 and Pr 3:11-12. But never punish your child when you are angry—punishment is not to satisfy you or your pride but to train your child in righteousness. Praise and correct your child's behavior—not your child. Temper your justice with mercy. Once a son played hooky from school for three days, so his father told him that he would punish him equal to the crime by banishing him to the attic for three days where all he had was a bed and his meals. After supper when the father tried to sleep, all he could think of was his son alone in the attic. He climbed the stairs and found his son awake. They hugged and then lay down together to spend the night. The next two nights were the same. Just like God, this father shared the punishment with his son.

The Pattern. A man going to a tavern

Discipleship Here At Home

Military Celebrates Gay Pride, from p. 4
straight face, declares him a her and "a new normal" cannot have a conversation about mental health or evil because that society no longer distinguishes normal from crazy and evil from good. Our American society has a mental illness—overwhelming narcissism and delusion—and so cannot recognize what crazy or evil looks like.

My summation: We cannot have this conversation because we have thrown away the yardstick, and we no longer have a common standard to which everyone can appeal. No longer do we have an acknowledged authority. In such an environment no one is safe, because as soon as you take ultimate power out of the transcendent and put it into the hands of men, authority shifts with each new person who holds office—or who has the biggest gun.

Instead of the one, true God, in America we now have 330-million pretend gods—every one of whom wants his or her own view of reality, no matter how warped, to be enshrined as law for all. That is why every discussion becomes a political discussion, because it's all about human-crafted power, rather than bowing to the real Power outside of ourselves. As long as we have a pantheon of gods equaling the number of people within our borders, we will have an unending war for control of the alleged "Ring of Power" which resides in political office. As long as men see themselves as god, there will be war without end. If we will not freely bow to our Maker, we will find ourselves more and more forced to bow to the whims of men. We deny evil because to admit that it exists is to confess that we are.

saw his son following. "Look, dad," the boy exclaimed. "I'm following in your footsteps." The father immediately turned and went home. A survey found that when both parents are faithful to the Lord, 93% of the kids remain faithful. If one parent is faithful, the figure drops to 73%. When both parents are moderately faithful, it

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

· **Ed Fink**—taken to hospital Thurs night; prostate cancer getting progressively worse

· **Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer; surgery 7/9

· **Rod Green**—staph infection; still weak

· **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—at St. Anthony's Hospital with brain cancer

· **Jesse Walker**, formerly of Westside, now in Chicago—mother's oldest sister Denise passed away Friday

· **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving, MRI clear; treatment continues

· **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout

· **Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes

· **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's grandmother**—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo

· **Brittany Tope's mother**—breast cancer; broken ribs healed; doing better; grandmother—on dialysis

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease

Jonathan Hadders—RA

Kirk Johnson—MS

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, Alzheimers;

Virginia, macular degeneration; high bp

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis;

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Travel

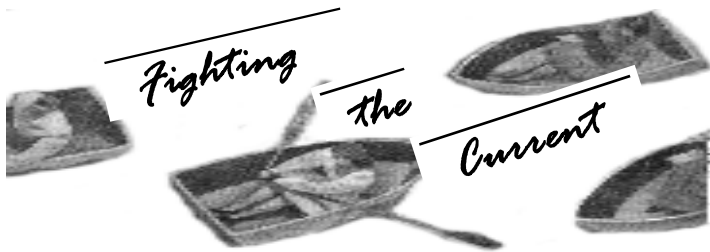
Mina and Ernie Gonzalez are in WI visiting Lorenzo and family this week. The **Topes** are in CA and **Pat Campbell** is in AR this week. The **Reameses** are in CO Springs this weekend. The **Howells** return from OR this afternoon.

Sarah McMurray is in Scotland. The **Corrays** are out of town. The **Gintchins** are away until Aug; Tsvetanka and children are in Bulgaria visiting family, Lazar traveling, to join them in July.

Contact Payton Miller's phone number is 309-846-8810; email: payjay94@gmail.com

drops to 53%. When both parents attend occasionally, it drops to 6%. These statistics speak loudly. Your children will follow you.

The Priest. Job prayed and sacrificed regularly for his children, Job 1:5. God admonishes fathers in Deut 6:6-9 to sanctify them by teaching His words, cf. Jn 17:17. Read them. Learn them. God and His words will help you to be the father that your children need. Commit yourself to Him.



Exposing current thoughts & trends culture wars

Honest Conversations About Evil Not Possible, by Bob Allen

We can't have honest conversations about evil because we no longer know how to recognize it. Erick Erickson of [RedState](#) wrote a post about the SC church massacre called "The Conversation We Won't Have."

[The shooter] appears more evil than disturbed. Perhaps he had mental health issues. But at some point we just need to call him evil. White supremacy and segregation are evils. He appears to have believed in both. People who believe in white supremacy and segregation do not have to suffer from mental health [issues], but do in all cases have to be evil.

As Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal said yesterday, evil is real and the government is not going to legislate it away.

But in typical fashion, the conversation immediately became political. The state of South Carolina, controlled by Republicans, elected an Indian American Governor and put a black man in charge of the congressional district from which the first shots of the Civil War were fired. They then elevated him to the United States Senate. Both are Republicans. The state has moved on. But of course, cries from the left were all about the state's racism. Race hustlers picked it up for political gain. Fox News and the GOP were attacked. Governor Nikki Haley was blamed. I daresay that on leftwing television programs most every person and idea on the right-of-center was blamed more than [the shooter].

The President and others went immediately to gun control. There does appear to be an issue with how [the shooter] got his gun, but some reporter actually tweeted that it is easier in this country to get a gun than to get food. I suspect the reporter has never actually tried to purchase a gun. How [the shooter] obtained his gun is a question, but the fact is that South Carolina has tougher gun rules than most states in the Southeast.

The facts do not matter, though.

Yet again we have a twenty-something white male loner or semi-loner who got a gun and decided to kill people. In most cases we have found that the mass shooter was mentally disturbed. In this case, it looks more and more that [the shooter] was just a servant of an evil that says some of those created in the image of God are better than others or that some people are not created in the image of God at all.

As a nation, when these things happen, we never have the conversation about real evil. We also never have the conversation about mental health. For that matter, we don't have honest conversations about why some kid in Minnesota or Alabama would want to go join ISIS and kill their [sic] fellow citizens or why some kid would want to join neo-Nazis or a gang.

Instead, we descend into partisan conversations where everything is political and neither side can concede or acknowledge the other's points. Everyone and everything gets blamed while ignoring the actual person who killed.

I realize now why that is. I realize why we will never have the conversation we should have. A society that looks at a 65-year-old male Olympian and, with a

continued on p. 3



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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

- adult Bible class, "Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication," Jim Reingrover

- Sermon, "The Heart of the Man of God," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon, "Lessons from the Life of Elijah," Payton Miller

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of [Acts](#) next Sunday evening, June 28, at 4 pm, at the Wilkeses' house in Erie, light supper to follow. See [Joel Walker](#) for schedule.