

# Sermon: Fatherhood

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This weekend is “Father’s Day Weekend” – for many it’s a weekend with sales at Home Depot, there will be lots of BBQ, and for many adult men, their main goal for the weekend will be a nap.

**For some dads, there is some kind of gift:**

- When the kids are little, Mom buys a gift, hands it to the kid for ten seconds who has no idea what is in it, who hands it to Dad
- Later, older kids might buy or make their own (*those are the best!!!*)
- In adult hood, sometimes that turns into a “*Let’s have lunch*”
- But for some, it’s an obligatory phone call – “*Hey! Am calling for Father’s Day. How are you? I’m good too. Ok, well, Happy Father’s Day (click)*”

Seems kind of sad, doesn’t it? It is sad. I think maybe its because we call it FATHER’s day. As a Father, let me share a little with you. On this topic, most men may get up to five different titles given to them:

**Son ... Father ... Daddy ... Dad**

... and **Pops** / Gramps / Grampy / Pappa / El Patronus Maximus

The last one might be made up, cuz its really hard to get a toddler to pronounce ‘maximus’ ... but the rest are real.

## SON

Every man started as a boy ... which means every father started as a son. That’s hard for some of us to imagine. You might have seen pictures of them when they were younger – but its important to really recognize that almost every father started out as an ornery teenager:

- Who didn’t like the rules that their parents laid down
- Who would rather sit on a couch than do chores or go to work
- Who had no clue what they wanted when they were older, and really only thought about being with their friends and maybe bending a few rules.
- Thankfully, those boys did NOT have Social Media. *Amen Dads?*

But most of those ornery on the outside teenage boys will never admit that on the inside, they asked questions like:

- Am I good enough? Am I going to be okay?
- Does my family understand my heart? Do they know who I really am inside?
- For some, they were asking: How will I get thru today? Will tomorrow be any better?

It's important to remember, that the men in your life who might look strong today ... often struggled when they were "just" boys and sons.

## FATHER – DADDY – DAD

**"Father"** is a title, with no disrespect intended, is as much a biological term as anything. In September of 1998, I was officially given that title when my first child was born. I received the title again in January of 2001 ... and again in June of 2004.

Not everyone has the same relationship with their biological **"father"**

It is often said, **"Anyone can be a father – it takes someone special to be a Dad"**. Let's talk about that.

For many men, the best word that we'll ever hear is **"Daddy"**

It starts early as **"Da Da"** ... then its **"Daddy"** ... but for many of us, it far too quickly becomes just **"Dad"**

What I mean is that:

- When you were just a pile of goo, 10 or 20 pounds, your biggest accomplishment were finding your toes and getting them to your face. But **"Da Da" and a stretched out set of arms** that said "Pick me up" was the best thing EVER. You were soooo small and cute — and we were so optimistic or ambitious (and clueless). Right dads?
- And then, there are the "Daddy" years – you're a **little person** and likely **our best friend**. For me and my kids, this was cartoons, legos, video games, and cuddles — lots and lots of cuddles and hugs.
- And then one day, we're just **"Dad"** as in *"Hey Dad, can you take me to \_\_\_?"* or *"Dad, can I have \_\_\_?"*

Don't get me wrong, every father/dad wants their kids to mature and thrive:

- It is amazing to watch you really learn who you are and who you want to be
- It is fantastic to watch you succeed in your areas of interest, your passions, your hobbies
- It breaks our hearts when you struggle – where we just want to rush in and fix it. Sometimes we can, sometimes we can't – and when that happens, I promise our hearts hurt for you almost as much as you are hurting..

For many of us, "Dad" is the **coolest adventure that we'll ever go on** – even more than every Philmont, Northern Tier, SeaBase, or Summit experience or summer camp. But if we're honest, while being a dad is super cool, *we also miss the "Daddy" times.*

If we are being honest, most Dad's also ask themselves questions like:

- Am I good enough – as a Dad? As a man?
- Does my family understand my heart? Do they know who I really am inside? *Or am I just the guy with the credit card who makes rules?*
- For some, they are asking: How will I get thru today? Will tomorrow be any better?  
*(the same questions)*

## POPS / GRAMPS

There is that fifth title I mentioned – Pops / Gramps / Pappa / Grampy / etc.

I haven't experienced that one yet, but I imagine it has **the cool factor of "DaDa & Daddy" with the grandkids** ... combined with a different kind of "Dad" with your adult children as they ask "How did you?" or "What if \_\_\_?"

I mention that last part because boys, young men, adult men – all of those that answer to some part of the spectrum of *Son – Father – Daddy – Dad* spend decades asking those questions:

- Am I good enough?
- Do they understand my heart and know who I really am inside?
- How will I get thru today? Will tomorrow be any better?

## OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

If we are going to talk about fathers, on any Sunday but especially Father's Day, its important to remind folks – this is why God wants us to think of Him as "Father"

As I said, **Being an earthly father** is not always fun:

- It is tough to be laying down rules and saying "no" to things that I am sure if I was a teenager, I would have been all in on. It's not fun for us either!
- It is tough to watch your kids struggle, sometimes fall and hurt themselves (or others)
- It breaks my heart when i see my kids struggling with:
  - Am I good enough?
  - Who am I really on the inside?
  - How will I get thru today – or tomorrow?

Some of the reasons that we call God our Heavenly Father is that:

- He sets rules that are for our benefit, even when we don't like them or understand them
- It is tough when He watches us struggle, when we fall, when we hurt ourselves (or others)
- His heart breaks when we ask those questions:
  - Am I good enough? Who am I really? How I get thru today?

But let's be clear, it breaks His heart *because* He wants you to understand and believe in the answers that He has for those questions:

## Am I good enough?

Are you 'good enough' for the world? YES, because (and only because) you are His child!

**Psalm 139:14 -- I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.**

**Has anyone in here ever built something in Minecraft or Legos?**

You might not have built it the way that someone else built it – but you built it the way you wanted to. In those games or toys, you are the creator and your creation is perfect to the only opinion matters. That is how we need to look at our uniqueness – we are absolutely, wonderfully, perfectly made to the only opinion that matters.

Say that with me – **I am absolutely, wonderfully, perfectly made** ... (repeat louder)

That is the world's measure – and yet, we also know that when we ask ourselves “Am I ‘good enough’” based on our Heavenly Father’s measure, **we are not**. We might be perfectly broken, but we are also infinitely flawed. We make poor choices every ... single ... day.

But our Heavenly Daddy had a plan for that too, right?

2 COR 5:21 – He (the father) made Him (the son) who knew no sin to bear sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

So, while WE are not perfect, we are perfectly made because we were made according to His plan – AND – if Christ is in our hearts, then our sins are paid for and by the last measure that matters, *we are clean*.

### Do you know who I really am inside?

If we go back to those three questions that we all struggle with, when we wonder “Do they know who I really am inside?” – He does.

1 Kings 8:39 says (God) “You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men”

1 Chronicles 28:9 teaches “for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent”

Jeremiah 12:3 offers “You know me, O Lord; you see me”

That is a question that every child and every adult struggles with – “Do you see the real me?”

And God’s answer is “YES, I see you ... I hear you ... I know the real you ... and I love who you are today and who you are intended to become. Let me help you get there and see yourself the way that I do.”

It is sooooo important that you hear this. Listen to me as we celebrate Father’s Day – our Heavenly Father assures us that:

He sees the real you – not who you pretend to be or others say you are

He hears the real you – not just what you say, but what your heart says

... and He loves who you are today and who you are intended to become.

He wants to help you get there -- and help you to see yourself the way that He does (now) ... and what He sees that you could become.

## How will I get through today?

That brings us to the last question – “*How will I get thru today? Will tomorrow be any better?*”

He does not promise a *better* tomorrow, or at least not that tomorrow will be easy or perfect. Some seasons of life are hard ... BUT He does promise to help you get through today.

Psalm 55:22 -- Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

Matthew 11:28-30 -- Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.

Philippians 4:6-7 -- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

## Closing

I'm almost finished with my time for today, so let me leave you with two offers and two suggestions.

One > **If you have questions** about how much your Heavenly Father loves you – come see me. Come today, or flag down the cowboy hat before the end of the session.

Two > **On earth, God has put men in your life** ... maybe your earthly father ... your Dad/Daddy ... or some other man who is there to help you answer those tough questions that we all have:

- Am I good enough?
- Do you see who I really am?
- How I get thru today?

Talk to them. Ask what is in your heart – they, like our heavenly father, want nothing more than to help you ... to help you today – and to help you become who you are intended to be.

By the way, everyone struggles with those questions and others. But if you are breaking inside on those questions, talk to one of those men that God has put in your life. If not them, someone else you trust – but please, *talk to someone.*

Beyond that, here are **two suggestions**:

1. If your Dad is here this weekend, **go hug him** -- but do two things differently:
  - For Father’s Day, thank him for something. Not something generic or simple, but something specific – anything. Let **him know** that **you know** he’s being a good dad. He needs to know that.
  - And (and this one can be a challenge). When you hug him, *don’t be the first one to stop hugging* – you might be surprised how long that hug lasts. He loves you that much.
2. And so does our Heavenly Father – so next time you pray, thank God for something specific AND think back to that long hug, so that you know that our God loves you that much and more.

### Let’s pray

Heavenly father, we thank you for today.

... for the adventure of Scouting that binds us together and brings us adventures that enable us to grow into whom you intend us to be.

... for the men that you’ve put in our lives to help us become better versions of ourselves

... for loving us even more than our fathers (and mothers) could, providing all that we need, and more than we could imagine.

Please humble our hearts and help us to appreciate all that we are, all that we have, and all that we could be with your help.

Amen

### Order of service

Welcome

Opening Song – How Great is Our God

Responsive Reading – Scout Law

Message

Song – This is My Fathers World

Closing Prayer – Scout Law by Baden Powell & Opening prayer