
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Striving to be a Godly Father

Sunday, June 21, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

It is impossible to be a godly father apart from having a _____ with our heavenly Father – who is the ultimate Father.

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. ²Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:1-3, NLT)

⁹If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. (Romans 10:9-10, NLT)

As Christ-followers, we want our lives to _____ the impact that Christ has made on us. We want to shine bright for Him in all things – especially with our _____.

Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. (Philippians 2:12-15, NLT)

The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them. (Proverbs 20:7, NLT)

But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15, NLT)

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Purposeful steps towards being a godly father:

1. The first step in being a godly father is to be fully _____ to your _____, faithfully loving her as Christ loved the Church.

²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."

³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:25-33, NLT)

2. A godly father recognizes that his children are a _____ from the Lord – a _____ from Him.

¹ Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.

² It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.

³ Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.

⁴ Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. ⁵ How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates. (Psalm 127, NLT)

3. A godly father does not _____ his children but rather _____ them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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3. A godly father does not _____ his children but rather _____ them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4, NLT)

“These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, ²and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. ³Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

⁵And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:1-8, NLT)

4. A godly father _____ regularly for his children.

- For their salvation – 1 Timothy 2:1-6
- For guidance – Proverbs 3:5-6
- For wisdom – James 1:5
- For protection – Psalm 91:11-12 and Psalm 121:7-8
- For spiritual growth – Ephesians 3:17-19
- For courage – 1 Timothy 4:12
- For hope in God – Romans 5:13
- For the peace of Christ – John 14:27

5. A godly father models _____ to his children.

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5. A godly father models _____ to his children.

²⁰ “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

²² “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began. (Luke 15:20-24, NLT)

³¹ “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. ³² We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’ ” (Luke 15:31-32, NLT)

6. A godly father _____ the Lord to do the work that _____ the Lord can do.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)

What lessons will your children learn from you?

1. Do you _____ for them each _____?
2. Do they know you spend time _____ God’s Word on a regular basis?
3. Do they see _____ in your daily actions?
4. Do you regularly _____ with them about Jesus?
5. Do they see you _____ in church where you _____ Jesus with all of your heart?

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