

Well, good morning. Happy Father's Day. Now, we would normally do a Father's Day little giveaway, little fun thing, little game at the end of the service. But we've got a very special ending to our service this morning. We're having a baptism.

So we hope you all stick around for that at the end of the service. But I do want to focus on some dads here this morning. How many dads are in the room? Raise your hand if you're here. Look at that.

Look at that. Look at that. Now, here's. Here's what we're doing. We've got.

Behind that beautiful drapery here. In fact, I'm going to have someone help me with that beautiful drapery. Can you. I don't know if we need. It's a.

It's a. It's a grill. It's a grill. It's a. Oh, Carly, thank you very much. Thank you very much.

It's in a box. Yeah. Some assembly required, as we say. Yes, but. But to determine who's going to get this, we have to.

We've got some pretty strict guidelines. So I'm going to ask you a few questions, and I'm going to have the dads who want to be in the running for this grill to just stand up. Just stand up if you want to be in the running. Now, listen, how many grills do you need? Two?

We got three, we got four, we got five, we got six, seven, eight. Come on, guys, just get up. Just get up. If you don't want the grill, you can give it away to your. To someone else, to your neighbor.

There we go. There we go. There we go. Now here's. Here's.

Come on. Come on. Kurt, stand up. Doug, stand up. Come on, come on, come on, come on.

You did. You did. If you're. Dad. Come on, stand on up.

Stand up, Jody. Come on, come on, Come on. I'll probably let you sit down just a second. You can do it. You can do it.

Okay, well, here's the deal. You're all contenders for this amazing, amazing prize. But to prove that you are a true Pitmaster, you have to answer these questions. And the one left standing wins the prize. So here's the first guideline.

If you prefer propane over charcoal, just sit down. We don't want your kind here.

Jody, you just sat down. Cause you were tired of standing up. That

was. Okay, okay, okay. So these are the real guys.

These are the real, real grillers right here. Okay? Now take a seat. If you have never. If you've Never accidentally melted a plastic spatula or a pair of tongs while cooking.

Take a seat.

Okay, you guys are bad at the grilling thing. You need this grill. Okay, Take a seat. If you own an apron with something stupid like kiss the cook or daddy 0 of the patio or I only smoke the good stuff. If you've got anything weird on an apron like that, then you can be seated, too.

Okay? Now take a seat. If you clicked your tongs together at least twice just to make sure they work the last time you picked them up. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, look at this.

We've got. Okay, we've got 1, 2, 3, 4, 4 left standing. Is anyone in the back? Are you all contenders still back there? Anyone back there standing in the back?

No, no. You're all. You're all out of the game. Okay, well, here's what we got to do now. We've got to figure out who's got the most people they're going to be grilling for.

So if you've. I want you to shout out the number of children or grandchildren that you will be responsible for if you have a big backyard grill out. So, Rod, what's the number that you would have grandchildren or children total? Start counting. It's going to take Rod a while.

6. That took a lot longer than it needed to for six. Okay, six. Doug. Seven.

Three. Come on, Matt, get creative. You can get creative here. 8. 8.

I feel like Matt is the winner on this one. Okay, Matt, this is your grill here at the end of the service. Congratulations and happy, happy Father's Day. Now for the last. For the two, for the three that were left standing, we have three little candy jars.

So Carlie's gonna deliver those to you right now. We don't want anyone leaving without. Oh, Carly, does Matt get these grilled? Oh, look at this. It just gets better and better.

Better and better. And look at this. We provided you some charcoal briquettes. Matt, you're good. You're good.

I want to be invited over when you do this. Okay, well, happy Father's

Day to all the dads in the room. To everyone who had a dad. Happy Father's Day. Dads come in all shapes and sizes.

I'm going to get rid of this microphone with what I'm wearing. How's that? Is that good? You got me. Dads come in all shapes and sizes and levels of dadness.

Do you know what I mean when I say that? Some are. Some dads are like dad dads, some are like me. We try. We do our best.

Some are wonderful. Some dads, let's be honest, leave some deep gaps. Maybe you had a dad that left some gaps in your life. Some dads helped give you life.

As. As John Flynn says, they showed up for the fun part, and then. And then they sort of disappeared. And that's just sadly true for a lot of people. Others showed up later in your life.

But, man, when they showed up, they became those. Those people that. That. That just poured into your life. They became father figures by the way they loved you, by the way they guided you, by the way they cared for you.

And for both the dads who were. Yeah. And the dads are like, yeah, I'm thankful for both of them this morning because you're the reason. They're the reason that you're here as well. So if your story is that dad was there for me all my life or I had some great dad figures, just give thanks to your dads this week.

No dad is perfect. Last week, I had one of those moments as a dad when I thought, this is my first year as a. Like a full fledged dad, by the way. I thought, wow, I really. No, no, no, no, no plus yet.

Let's just. Here's what we do. Let's just see if we can get them raised living good, healthy lives without prison records. That will be. I joke about it.

I shouldn't joke about it. That'll be the success right there. But I had a moment where I just, you know, it wasn't good, and. And I just thought to myself, wow, I really messed that up. And.

And I was in here, and Sonny was coming, and I'm writing a Father's Day message, and Carly's in here. I'm like, Carly, I just got to tell you, this was a. This was a bad. This is a bad week to write an aspiring Father's Day message because I. I only have, like, the. The playback of the.

Of the bad ways I managed my fathering this week. I felt the weight of not doing it. Great. There was some frustration. There was regret.

There was guilt. Any dad's the only thing about guilt. Like, am I enough? Am I doing what I need to do? And that dogged me all the time I was doing the Father's Day sermon, I was really looking around.

If Alan had been here, he'd have been up here right now. He's on sabbatical. But. But he. He would have been the one to do it, because I just didn't feel up to it.

But this is Satan's ploy. He loves to use Guilt in our lives to take us off the front lines and sideline us. Anyone know how that works? Anyone that's experienced that before? Guilt and shame can push us out of the front lines where God wants us to be serving him and onto the sidelines or hiding away.

And as a father, I've got to be honest with you. I don't want my kids avoiding me because they've done something. If they've messed up something or caused a problem, I don't want them avoiding me because of that. My love's pretty strong. It's not going to get.

It's not going to get tossed because of something that they've done that wasn't great. And here's the deal. Our good, good Father that we just sang about, he doesn't want that either. So if you're carrying some shame or guilt today, the gospel has some good news for you. God wants to exchange your shame, your guilt, and he wants to replace it with confidence and freedom.

So that's what we're going to dig in this morning, too. Just a reminder of the confidence and freedom that we find when we trust our lives to Jesus. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, as we, as we just remind ourselves of how good you are to us and how much you love us, challenge us. But check us against those tendencies to allow guilt and shame to remove us from the relationship that you want to have with us.

Remind us that you love us as we study your word together today. In Jesus name, amen. Dads matter. The best earthly fathers provide and protect and guide us not just into adulthood, but long after. If you're an old dad, and by old I mean over 70, you're still as much a dad as you were when you were 20 and 30.

Dads matter. But even the best dads are human. If you're a dad and you feel like you got a lot to answer for, join the crowd. We've all failed in parenting. We've all failed at being dads because we're human.

And many of us are the product of imperfect dads ourselves. But the beauty of the gospel is this, that God invites us into a family where he is the perfect father. The perfect father. Even when we're brats. Anyone been a brat in your life?

Anyone thumbed your nose at God before and said, I don't care what you want me to do, I'm going to do it my way. Even when we're brats, God is the perfect dad now. I've had days where I needed a break from mine. I love Them dearly. I think you all know that.

But there's also moments where you just need some time to yourself to recoup and regain any nods. Heads nodding here. Dads, am I the only one? I don't think I'm the only one. You need a little bit of time, but God doesn't ever need time away from us to recoup.

That's amazing. He never sends us away for the weekend. He never sighs with relief when you're someone else's responsibility for a little bit. He never feels his shoulders relaxed just a teensy bit when he drops us off at Grandma's for the weekend. God never does that.

One of the most powerful scriptures, the one that just reminds me again and again of how good God is and how much I can trust him, is, is this one right here. And it talks about when life gets hard. Does God walk away? No, he doesn't. David wrote in Psalm 46, God is our refuge and and strength and ever present help.

You never have to call him and hope he picks up. You never have to figure out where he is on life. 360. Is he close? He's an ever present help in time of trouble.

And because God is an ever present help in time of trouble, Father, we can live confident. Confident in knowing that we are never alone. We are never on our own. Deuteronomy tells us this in the Old Testament. The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you.

He will never leave you nor forsake you. So do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged. Be confident. Not only does God never fail, his love never fails either.

God just doesn't show up. But he is with us. Heart, soul, mind and strength. Jeremiah 31 tells us this. I have loved you with an everlasting love.

This is what God speaks to us. I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. I love you. I love you. I love you.

When earthly fathers disappoint, drift, perhaps, or even disappear, God remains faithful and we can live with confidence. Because he never fails. And his love never fails even when we do. And that confidence in God's present and active love for us gives us freedom. We don't have to live with anxiety.

We are free now. None of us live perfectly. If there's any dads here who are perfect, I just want to remind you of this scripture in Romans 3:23, where Paul reminds us of this. All have sinned and fallen short

of the glory of God. We've all sinned.

We've all messed up. That includes even the best dads. And some of you have amazing dads. But even the best dads aren't perfect all the time. We've all fallen short of our own standards, of other people's standards and God's standards.

But when we fail, we don't run from God. We don't hide away in our room. We don't recluse. We run to God. We come to God.

And God says, come to me. Come to me. And we confess our sins. Guilt chains us up, but confession frees us up. So we come to God with our stuff and we say, lord, here's what I did.

I really regret that. And God says, I forgive you. I forgive you. First John 1:9. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and he will forgive us our sins and he'll purify us from all unrighteousness.

David wrote this in Psalm 103. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Good dads don't hold grudges. Good dads don't hold on to past mistakes. Right?

Don't do it. Let that go. Let that go. Because once forgiven, God shows us how we are to be as fathers. Once forgiven, God erases the guilty verdict, says there's therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

If you're my son, man, I love you. You can mess up, own up, and our relationship won't skip a beat. 2nd Corinthians 5:17. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, and the new is here. The past is over.

There's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Now. Satan likes to confuse us on this matter. Satan loves to sort of keep replaying our failures, doesn't he? He loves to keep saying, oh, but remember when you did this.

Oh, remember when that happened? Or remember when you said that? Satan loves to replay those in our mind. He tries to, tries his best to not let us forget them. He tries to leave us feeling like we have to somehow do something to get back into God's good favor.

We got to double down on the good stuff so God will overlook the bad stuff. But, but when God declares us righteous, when our good, good Father declares us righteous, it is done. Now, righteous is an interesting word, isn't it? We use that term to describe people who feel like they're better than everyone else. We call them self righteous people.

But righteousness is not really at all about perfection. Righteousness is a better way to use that is the word rightness and when my boys and I are in rightness with each other, it is not about how, how much they get it right or how much they mess it up. That, that is, that is a secondary issue. It has nothing at all to do with our relationship.

Righteousness does not mean perfect. When God declares us righteous, it doesn't mean we won't mess up again. It simply means that our relationship with our good, good Father is solid and steady and unbroken. Not because we do everything right, but because Jesus did everything right. He lived the life we could not live.

He died the death we deserved. And our sin, our mess ups are covered by Jesus. We have a perfect relationship with God because of what Jesus did. And our failures are covered by his faithfulness. 2nd Corinthians 5:21 says this.

He made him. God made Jesus, who knew no sin to become sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him. What does that mean? It means that none of my failures can erase or undo what Jesus said. Said was finished and completed on the cross.

And that gives me confidence in life. Listen, I don't, I don't. I don't want my boys defined by their mistakes. I don't want them to define themselves by their mistakes. I want my kids to live with confidence and my love for them and confidence in who they are in me.

I don't want them defined by their stuff. And God, God wants the same for you. Here's what Paul wrote, and I think this is true because like Paul, I want my boys to own their mistakes. We all need to do that. This is part of adulting.

We own our mistakes, don't we? We say, yep, that was me, I did that. I wish I hadn't done that, but I did that and now I'm going to learn from it and do better next time. Paul says this in Philippians 3, 13 and 14 says, here's what we do when we, when we, when, when we have those moments where it is, it wasn't a good week. We forget what lies behind and we press on to what lies ahead.

And this is, this is the secret sauce of our relationship with Jesus. We come to him, we confess. He says, I love you and I forgive you. Now move forward, keep going. Don't get stranded.

Don't, don't get mired down by the guilt. Now that doesn't mean there aren't standards. As good fathers, there's a place for standards. It doesn't mean that anything goes. Just because I love you.

Just because God loves you doesn't mean you just do whatever you want. That's. That's not a healthy relationship. Good fathers have standards. They teach their children these standards, and they

patiently help their children grow into those standards.

We have. We are patiently teaching and growing in Standards at 1318 15th street and maybe you're doing the same thing at your house. This past week, we had an instance where we had to learn something unexpected. I didn't. I didn't even think about this.

But one of the boys had a job that he was ready to be done with. He had had it for way too long. Two weeks. And he was like, yeah, this is not. This is not the job.

And I knew when he took the job, I said, you're going to hate this job. But two weeks it took. And he realized, yeah, I don't like this job. And. And he says, I. I'm quitting.

I go, okay, well, how are you going to do this? How are we. How do we quit a job? He goes, I don't. I don't know.

I said, well, you need to let your boss know that, that you are moving on from this position. Thank him for the effort and energy he put into training you. And you learned a lot from him. You. You show your appreciation, and then you offer to continue to work out the time that he wants you to work until you actually have a closing time, and then you move on to the next job.

I want you to have a job before you quit this job. That's always another standard we strive for at our house. But we had to walk through that, and I thought, okay, I want my boys to know how to get a job, and I want them to know how to work at the job, but it's also important to know how to leave a job. Little standard here. My standards are important.

It's important to me that they leave a good taste in the mouth of people in the community. I want them to look at these boys and go, hey, they did it the right way. This is important for me. And I know their lives will be better if they follow these standards. And some of them are pretty simple, but they don't have to be perfect at them for me to love them.

Do you hear what I'm saying? They don't have to be perfect at it for. I mean, they're. They're learning, they're growing. They don't have to be perfect at it.

Before I call them my sons, our good, good father says, you don't have to earn my love. You don't have to do it all perfectly until. And until you do. I'm going to kind of just watch. Like you're on parole, like you're on probation.

This is not how God works with us. God freely gives and we freely receive it. He goes, because you're my child, I want you to follow my

direction. I want you to listen, I want you to obey. Because my instruction is good and it'll give you a good life.

And it will lead you to a place where you can be confident and free in your life. But in the meantime, be confident and free as you learn to love me as I have loved you. Now Dad's in the room. Our good, good Father demonstrates the kind of fathers we're called to be. We're called to lovingly guide and instruct our kids.

But we will make mistakes. Instead of hiding away, however, in guilt and shame, instead of like, saying, I just won't talk about that anymore. We'll just avoid that. No, no. God says, bring that to Jesus.

Bring it to the cross. Receive the unfailing love of the Father in return. And when you have received that kind of grace, you are ready to give it to other people in your life. Your spouse, your kids, co workers, friends. When you have received the grace of God, you can freely give it out as well.

There's a tradition among Jewish families and everyone. This is for everyone right here on Friday evening before they begin the Sabbath weekend. Saturday is the Sabbath in Jewish cultures. And that Sabbath begins on Friday evening at the. When the sun begins to go down and they gather together and they have a meal together as a family.

And there's a moment in the evening where the Father will raise his hands over his family and he will pronounce this blessing. Now, we shared this blessing last week. If you were here, and it comes from Numbers, chapter six. This is a blessing that. That Moses gave instruction to Aaron to pronounce over the people of Israel.

And to this day, Jewish fathers will pronounce the same, same blessing over the kids in their home, their family. And here's how it goes. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And I'm telling you, that little. That little prayer does so much to bring confidence and freedom into families. When we can speak this over our kids, when our kids know that we love them and we want the best for them, just as God wants the best for them. Because I believe our good, good Father would say the very same thing to us. The Lord Bless you.

I bless you. I keep you close.

I want you to experience all of my blessings. I want you to. When you're scared, when you're anxious, don't run away from me, but present yourself to me. Come into my presence, look on my countenance. I will lift it up to you.

I will give you my favor and my blessing.

That countenance word is a good one.

In ancient cultures. I'm off the list right now. In ancient cultures, when you would come into a king's presence, if you had not been invited, then the king could have you killed or banished. But if the king looked up and smiled at you, you were welcomed in. And this is what this prayer is.

This is a prayer saying, God, come into my presence. And God looks upon us. He smiles at us and says, you're part of my family. I accept you, I receive you. Come into the court.

Come be present here with us. I love that prayer. And it leads really nicely into this time of communion because this prayer sets up this moment. God invites us to come to this table with confidence, knowing that he is going to lift up his countenance to us and freedom. Confidence.

Because we don't come based on our performance, but we come based on his finished work on the cross. Jesus has done it. And now we just enjoy that relationship, that rightness that we have with God through Christ and then freedom because his blood was shed to break guilt and condemnation off our lives. So in this moment, come as children. Come as children who God desires to bless and keep safe.

Come as children whose father God lights up when he thinks of you, who desires to wrap you in his goodness? Who says, don't let your faces be clouded and shrouded by guilt and shame. Don't hide from me, but come to me, look to me and receive the confidence and freedom. My peace promises come boldly, come freely, come as beloved children of God and leave shame at the cross. Heavenly Father, we thank you for your amazing grace this morning.

We thank you that you are a good, good father.

Now as we take these elements, remind us that we can live with confidence and freedom because you love us so much. In Jesus name, amen. Thank you for listening to this message from Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Did you know you can watch all of our video content, both current and past, on our YouTube channel. Visit [YouTube.com/sherwoodoaks](https://www.youtube.com/sherwoodoaks) to watch messages, series and complete worship services.