

May 2007

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Lo The d Ou Righteousness

How To Be A Godly Father

Elder Charles Moore

The children begged for a hamster, and after the usual fervent vows that they alone would care for it, they got one. They named it Danny. Two months later, when Mom found herself responsible for cleaning and feeding the creature, she located a prospective new home for it. The children took the news of Danny's imminent departure quite well, though one of them remarked, "He's been around here a long time--we'll miss him." "Yes," Mom replied, "But he's too much work for one person, and since I'm that one person, I say he goes." Another child offered, "Well, maybe if he wouldn't eat so much and wouldn't be so messy, we could keep him." But Mom was firm. "It's time to take Danny to his new home now," she insisted. "Go and get his cage." With one voice and in tearful outrage the children shouted, "Danny? We thought you said Daddy!"

June is the month for Father's Day. Fathers have taken quite a beating lately in our society, but we want to recognize those men who have taken seriously their responsibility to their families and to God. And many of you fathers have done just that, and we salute you. Being a godly father is hard work these days. It probably always has been. What dad wouldn't love to receive a "How To" book on Father's Day that gives him all

of the answers as to how to be the perfect, godly father? Well, the Apostle Paul can teach us a few things to be a godly father.

The text I offer for your consideration might seem a little strange at first. After all, the Apostle Paul was not the biological father of the people he was writing to at the church in Corinth. But he was their spiritual father. And so the Corinthians owed their spiritual lives to Paul. Doesn't Paul sound like a proud daddy when he writes in our text, 1Corinthians 4: 15, **For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.**

We can glean some guidance from the Apostle Paul and the Word of God to help us to be godly parents. When Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, he'd been away from his spiritual children for about three years. Paul had moved on to other mission fields, and now it had come to his attention that the church in Corinth was in chaos. While he was away, everything that could go wrong seemed to be going wrong. The believers were clique-ish, suing one another, involved in openly immoral relationships and the church itself was turning

a blind eye to these sins in the name of tolerance. They were squandering all of the wonderful spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit had poured out on them. Some even doubted the truth of the resurrection, calling it just a "story." Sounds pretty 21st century doesn't it?

Imagine such turmoil in our congregation or in your family. How does God the Father work through Paul, the Corinthians' spiritual father, to deal with their behavior? Does he just wink and think, "Kids will be kids"? Does he send in His hired gun to come up with both barrels loaded and blow them out of the water with guilt and shame? He does neither! Paul does scold his spiritual sons and daughters for their sins and shortcomings, but he adds in the opening words of 1Corinthians 4:14 **I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.**

Godly fathers warn their children about the spiritual danger of living their lives apart from the Lord and His will. In fact, Paul would later write to fathers in Ephesus, **And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)**

I remember when I taught my daughter,

Rox-Ann to ride a bike. How nerve wracking it was to watch her wobble to the right and to the left, struggling so hard to keep her balance. At first I would run right alongside her, with my hand on the seat, steadying her and helping her turn. But then little by little I'd let

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go and let her take a few pedals on her own. What a thrill it was to see her finally “get it” and then ride around triumphantly in the parking lot or down the street. But I would never dream of teaching her how to ride a bike without showing her how to use the brakes. That would be insane!

Fathers, your growing children face spiritual dangers much more sinister than any physical danger they will ever encounter riding a bicycle. The sin and guilt of unrepentant sin, of living life outside of the boundaries and guidelines of God's law, is a slippery slope that leads to a lifetime of despair and to an eternity separated from God. No godly father would stand silently by without warning his children of the danger of such a lifestyle. And yet, despite all of the sins his Corinthian children were committing, in his warning to them Paul still calls them “**my beloved children.**” The faster they “pedaled” away from him, away from Jesus, the harder he ran to catch up with them and keep them from crashing in a heap of unbelief.

Godly fathers warn against sin and yet love their children despite their sin. That's a difficult balance to strike. All of us long for such a father—one who clearly warns us against wrongdoing, yet tenderly loves us even when we fail miserably to live up to his expectations. Godly fathers allow their children to go through times of hardship and testing to strengthen them in their faith and in their ability to defeat temptation the next time around. The Good News is that no matter what kind of earthly father we had, or have, we have a heavenly Father who loved us enough to sacrifice His only true Son in our place! And he loved us enough to make us members of His family through Faith. The Bible says, **Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.** What a wonderful heavenly Father we have! He steers us away from every evil. At those times when we have moved away from Him and crashed into life's gutters and ditches, He's come looking for us, has picked us up and dusted us off, cleaned us up and made us whole again. Dear Heavenly Father, gives us hearts like yours and hearts like Paul's—especially to our fathers—hearts that love; hearts that care enough to warn and discipline our children.

*Children need a Daddy
For many, many things:
Like holding them high off the ground
Where the sunlight sings!
Like being the deep music
That tells them all is right
When they awaken frantic with
The terrors of the night.*

*Like being the great mountain
That rises in their hearts
And shows them how they might get home
When all else falls apart.*

*Like giving them the love
That is their sea and air,
So diving deep or soaring high
They'll always find him there.
Author Unknown*

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

This was our May of 2007 - clouds and sun, rain and wind, fog and heat. Did I mention tulips and lilacs? They were there too. Even though we might have wanted more sun than we got, sighs of contentment were heard throughout the land at the many beautiful days we had after April's wind and chill. By month's end, parents and children began the process of adjusting to summer vacation and teachers began the ritual of catching their breaths momentarily as they launched into all the deferred chores and activities they'd postponed during the school year.

We've heard some wonderful news. Leslie (Arquette) Miller is expecting a child next fall. May God bless her and Tom throughout the time she carries this little one.

Our prayers and thoughts have been with Kathleen Johnson on the death of her father, J. Edward Meharg. We had just seen Kerry and Kathleen when they came to Michigan for Carrie and Joel DeHaan's wedding in late April. Despite the circumstances, we were glad to have the opportunity during the visitation time to visit with their grown children, Casey and Leann, whom we haven't seen for quite some time.

It's not too late to turn over any 2 and 3 liter bottles you might have sitting around to be used at the upcoming summer camp's craft classes. We enjoyed our annual camp pre-service training day which followed dinner (which doubled as a time to honor Nate Valentine during his week of celebrating his 84th birthday - nothing but lunches, “cake cake cake” and visits with friends). For his birthday surprise at church, he got not one but two cakes – one baked by Cheryl Bemus and one brought by Pastor Charlie Moore. In addition to the one he'd received earlier in the week from Flat Rock friends, there was no more room in the freezer. He also traveled at the end of the month to his old Kentucky home for his high school “undieth” reunion (65th?) and had a great visit there with his brother and sister. Son Joel rode shotgun for the trip.

Diane Begeman's brother, Jack Boyd, has steadily been gaining recognition for his art which was recently featured at a recent Ann Arbor art show. A photo of a drawing of his titled “Car in Field” was featured in the Jackson Citizen Patriot. Diane has a few items at her house that he has done and they are so remarkable, visitors express their admiration, not knowing her brother is the artist.

Jordan Begeman, attending Ida High School, has just started a new job at La Fiesta Restaurant in LaSalle Michigan. Her older sister Chelsey works there as well. The restaurant serves really good food and is visited by many people from Toledo and other counties in Michigan. If she stays there long enough, maybe she'll see some of our newsletter readers pass through.

Roy Gee, our Auburn California friend, had a recent flying visit down a stair well and was sentenced to time in a hand cast. We're looking forward to seeing him and Benny as he speaks at a retreat at the Petersburg Church of God 7th Day in June. Cheryl Bemus' son, Chandos, has joined the Michigan National Guard. His mother, proud of him, has asked for our prayers for him. Marcia Moore and Karyn

Zacjackowski continue to need our prayers as well for their strength and healing.

Members of the church were able to assist Habitat for Humanity build day. For several years, we took part in the tasks done during the second day of the build – putting up blue board, roughing in doors, pounding in hurricane clips, and so forth. This year, our day fell towards the end of the build cycle and so Tim Begeman, Jeff Begeman, Dave Fedor and Charlie Moore worked on entirely new and refreshing tasks – roofing a shed and putting finished doors in.

One of the lines heard during a sermon this month seems worthy of continued meditation: “God created the sun that we might feel its warmth, the stars that we might be amazed by the vastness of His universe and know that only God could create it all, and the oceans that you might feel God’s power in the pounding of the surf. Enjoy God’s creation for He made it all just you.” Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

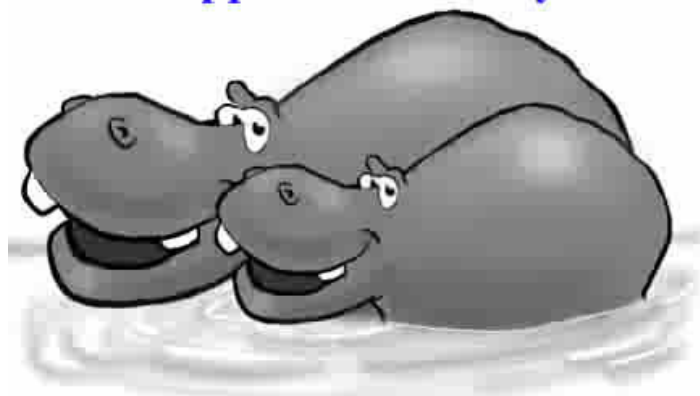
Cyberspace News genevabegeman@charter.net

Hello everyone out there. Something happened and we went from cool to hot weather. Summer is definitely here again. The air conditioners are on and pumping out the cool and we are very thankful!!

The very first part of May found David Charles flying to Kay and Jim Nevil's to take a car down to their son Joshua who is stationed near Jacksonville, FL. He flew up, drove the car down and then drove on back home. He is one transporter. He has done similar drives for different members of his family. He and Ruth just arrived in Michigan again for a few months the last weekend of May. Katy Nevil's graduation was first so they arrived in the western part of Michigan and will work their way over to Monroe by Bekah Smeltzer's party the first part of June. Who ever said that grandparenting was easy?

Jean Lane spent part of April and half of May in Phoenix. She made the trip home safely and it was good to see her in her pew again. She had a wonderful time with Jon, Berty, Shealyn and Scott and then had the bonus of Kevin and Heather coming to Phoenix from their home in CA. They camped nearby and they all visited back and forth and Jean loved every minute. While Jean was in Phoenix, Kane and Jennie Begeman drove to Michigan to bring Jennie's mother home and to visit with everyone. It was a brief visit but very nice. We ended their visit with enjoying them at church and then a lovely lunch afterward at a local restaurant with laughter and good food. There was a large group so the saying "the more the merrier" came to mind. We miss you each week at church, Kane and Jennie. We have another upcoming wedding with Larry and Peggy Charles' daughter Annie this time. The festivities started off in May with a lovely shower at the Charles home with the "ladies" of their family hosting. There were about 40 present with tables and females of every age everywhere. The gifts were beautiful and food delicious.

Hippo Father's Day!



I would like to report that the Joel DeHaan family is doing well. Joel and Carrie (Smeltzer) were married last month. They have settled in their new apartment in Lansing, MI and Carrie reports that they are adjusting to each other's ways!! Joel is working at a new job and keeps very busy and she is wrapping up a few things before med school starts the first of July. We are looking forward to having her at camp. We send our sympathy to Sandra and Lenny Weedon this month in the loss of Sandra's mother. It was very sudden so the shock factor was great. May you be able to remember the great times you all had together, Sandra. After the memorial service they drove to Florida on a vacation they had planned. They saw David and Ruth Charles while down there and the Charles' really enjoyed their time together. We also send our deepest sympathy to the Edward Meharg family. He is the father of Kathleen Johnson, and her twin sisters Lynn and Laura. The three girls started out as avid youth campers and the friendships have continued through the years with Kathleen marrying Kerry Johnson. The family had all been together just a week before his death and had a wonderful reunion. Kathleen praises God for that, as she lives in New Jersey and cannot get home to Michigan that often. We were all able to visit awhile with Casey and LeeAnn. The family was thankful for blessings even at this sad time. I visited with Deborah Stoner via phone this month and she reports that all is well in the Maryland area. Her mother Dorothy and Hannah Phillips were spending some time together. Hannah drives down from Philadelphia to spend time with her daughter Michelle Perry and her husband and they get to enjoy each other for a few days. June is a busy month with youth camp in the middle this year so until the first of July when you will hear from me again, stay well and enjoy each moment of God's creations. I have already heard from Sonya Pease who is baking cookies and finishing quilts to bring to camp.

**CHURCH OF THE
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WHAT IS A FATHER?

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth, without an anesthetic.

A father is a thing that growls when it feels good -- and laughs when it's scared half to death.

He never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks -- never quite the man his son believes him to be -- and this worries him, sometimes. So he works too hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him.

Fathers grow old faster than people. Because they have to stand at the airport and wave good-bye to the uniform that climbs aboard. And while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers have to stand there and beam outside -- and die inside.

Fathers have very stout hearts, so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what's inside.

Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough -- so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anybody's.

Fathers fight dragons -- almost daily. They hurry away from the breakfast table; off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop. There with calloused, practiced hands they tackle the dragon with three heads: Weariness, Work, and Monotony. And they never quite win the fight but they never give up.

Knights in shining armor -- fathers in shiny trousers --there's little difference, as they march away to work each workday.

-- Paul Harvey



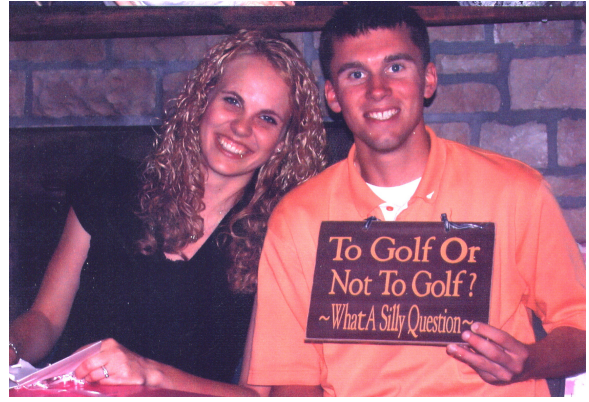
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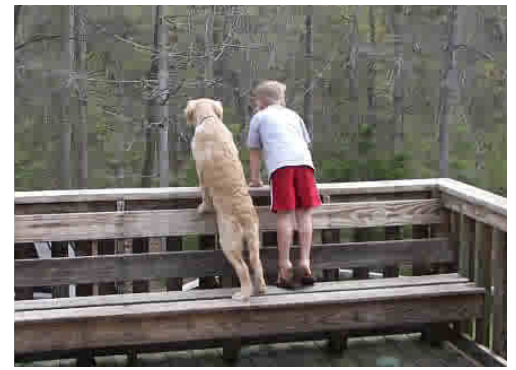
Celebrating at Annie's bridal shower
Jean Lane, Sue Trueman, Ila Baker, Annie's Grandma Baldwin, Ethel Johnson, Geneva Begeman and Mom..Peggy



A blast from the past...
Dale, Clara and Don Begeman



Annie and Jeff



Berty, Jean and Heather



Jennie & Kane