

A Dad's Prayer
Hebrews 13:7-9; Ephesians 3:15-19

Picking up on the theme set on June 2 (summer spiritual Survival kit), but with specific application for Fathers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmzXNf3emrQ> – Things Dads NEVER SAY. (see notes at end of sermon)

You can find a lot of diverse advice out there on what it means to be a “man”. Much of it is skewed; much of it is funny. Some of it is dangerous. Here’s a sample:

<http://www.saptstrength.com/blog/2012/01/12/10-rules-to-keep-your-man-card> - Female author

Rule 1: Do not wear your clothes so tight that your wife or girlfriend mistakes them for hers.

Rule 4: Do not lip sync to your awful music in the mirror at the gym in between sets with an angry look on your face.

Rule 6: Do not begin every sentence with the word “Bro”.

Rule 9: Do not update your status on Facebook to “gettin’ swole at the gym”. Newsflash, no one cares that you’re at the gym.

<https://1027kord.com/top-10-ways-to-lose-your-man-card-according-to-102-7-kord-listeners/>
listener responses

11 percent - Taking photos of yourself in the mirror

10 percent - Waxing

9 percent - Agreeing to match your outfit with your woman

6 percent - Knowing the words to "Call Me, Maybe"

6 percent - Not paying for a date

6 percent - Not knowing your vehicle's model and year

Recommended...

MEN IN THE ARENA: THE MAN CARD - CHARACTERISTICS THAT SEPARATE MEN FROM BOYS

Protecting Integrity

Fighting Apathy

Pursuing God Passionately

Leading Courageously

Finishing Strong

I DON'T usually do Mother's Day or Father's Day themed sermons, but since I'm not ready to jump into the tricky part of Heb 6-7 I thought I'd go for it.

A Biblical Man Card includes

#1-Depending on the enabling grace of God for transformation

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace... Heb 13:7-9

Those are Biblical traits for a MAN CARD – single, married, dad or not.

Two weeks ago, I spoke of the provisions for our SUMMER SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL KIT.

A New Purity, A New Identity, A New Disposition, A New Power

The dominion of sin is broken, and it no longer defines us. We are given a new purity, identity, disposition, and power. When we lean into these new provisions our walk of repentant faith stays on

track. That doesn't mean that we never sin. Let's be honest, we do and will sin in attitude, thought, and deed. This is true for ALL of us – children, adults, singles, marrieds, wives, husbands, moms, and dads.

A few weeks ago, I was using the VoV prayer and thought it fit well with some themes of Hebrews and it related well for ME and other men / dads on Father's Day

While what this sermon deals with relates to ALL OF US, I want those who are fathers to pay special attention- I include myself in the audience of hearers. One reason I landed on this is because it struck me so deeply when I read the devotional prayer. We're going to focus on a section of it and then look at some very practical pointers for dads.

Perhaps you can identify with these thoughts...

Note the traits of Humility, Hope, Sorrow, Gospel, and Prayer for Grace

CONTRITION p. 140-141

O THOU MOST HIGH,

It becomes me to be low in thy presence.

I am nothing compared with thee;

HUMILITY

I thank thee that in this state
of my endless being

I am capable by grace of improvement;

that I can bear thy image,

HOPE

and can work with thee and advance thy cause
and glory.

But, alas, the crown has fallen from my head:

I have sinned;

I am alien to thee;

my head is deceitful and wicked,

my mind an enemy to thy law.

SORROW

Yet, in my lostness thou hast laid help
on the Mighty One

and He comes between to put his hands
on us both,

my Umpire, Daysman, Mediator, (Daysman = arbiter)

whose blood is my peace,

whose righteousness is my strength,

GOSPEL

whose condemnation is my freedom,

whose Spirit is my power,

whose heaven is my heritage.

Grant that I may feel more the strength
of thy grace

PRAYER FOR GRACE

in subduing the evil of my nature,

in loosing me from the present evil world,

in supporting me under the trials of life,

in enabling me to abide with thee in my valleys,

in exercising me to have a conscience void

of offence before thee and before men.

In all my affairs may I distinguish between
duty and anxiety,

and may my character and not my

circumstances chiefly engage me.

I want to focus on the last section – A prayer for Dads

“ Strengthened for subduing the evil of our fleshly nature, loosening the grip of the present world, support in times of trial, abiding with God in the valleys, and in exercising a godly conscience.”

EX: Jiminy Cricket theology can be dangerous – “let your conscience be your guide”. The conscience that is not biblically informed can lead you down the wrong path.

EX: , When caught in some scandal how often do we hear from politicians or public figures say, “I didn’t know or think that what I was doing was wrong.”

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE SAID THAT?

#2 A concern for character above circumstances

The Hebrews 13 passage is filled with issues of character – we’ll get there at some point in the future, but we’ll borrow from it today to point out that character includes hospitality, concern for those ill-treated, integrity in marriage, free from the love of money by being content and trusting in the provision of God.

In all my affairs may I distinguish between
duty and anxiety,
and may my character and not my
circumstances chiefly engage me.

When it comes to our lives as a Dad, or a mom, or a child, or a friend, or a boss, employee, a teacher, a student, a church member, etc our chief engagement is to be our character. When we understand that God is chiefly concerned for our character, then His ways are not so mysterious.

We want a God who will make things easy and smooth for us, but the God revealed in scripture is concerned with conforming us to the likeness of Christ.

<http://cslewiswisdom.blogspot.com/2011/08/imagine-yourself-living-house.html>

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

In this transformation God deals with our minds and our hearts. God is after our hearts above all. This [painting of Augustine](#) is by 17th-century Flemish artist Philippe de Champaigne. Augustine sits in his study with a feather pen in one hand and his heart, set afire, in the other. His gaze is fixed on a beam of light shining from above, illuminating both his head and his heart. *Veritas*, Latin for truth, is at the center of the light.



In a practical way how does grace strengthen our hearts as dads, especially when we blow it with our kids – small kids, teens, and grown kids?

IT'S AT THOSE TIMES WHEN WE NEED TO LAY HOLD OF GRACE FOR GROWTH IN OUR CHARACTER.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/7-things-to-do-when-youve-blown-it-with-kids/>

Wm P. Smith

That's not just good news in general; it's good news specifically when you've sinned against your child. Here are some ways to live that out. (I am preaching to myself)

1. Remind Yourself of God's Grace

Remind yourself of what God has done to ensure that his goodness—not your sin—has the last word (Rom. 3:21–26). Remind yourself that nothing—not even your foolish words—can separate you from God's love (Rom. 8:38–39). Remind yourself that he delights in you because he has changed your heart to love him and his people (Deut. 30:6–10). (new purity, ID, disposition and power)

2. Be Sobered by Your Sin

Let yourself be sobered by what you've done. Our tongues are so hard to control—AND THEY reflect our hearts. When hurtful words come from our lips we need to examine our hearts in a sober manner. Speaking hurtfully gives you a glimpse of how hostile your sin is toward God and those made in his image. Let that reality sink in—not to discourage you, but to strengthen your resolve to wrestle with it daily.

3. Stop and Think (Fruit to root – once you see the fruit, examine what was at the root in the heart). (Our words and actions will reveal the Idols of our hearts)

Take a moment to think. Proverbs describes the fool as someone who gushes without first considering what he's saying and the potential effect on others (Prov. 12:18, 23). By contrast, the wise person is intentional and careful with words (Prov. 15:28). Speaking badly means you've played the fool, but praise God, he has redeemed you to become wise. Live now what he has remade you to be.

Think about what led to you saying what you did to your child.

Think about what you wanted in that moment that was more important to you than loving them.

Think about what you wish you'd said in response to what they were doing.

4. Take It to God 1 John 1:9

Every horizontal sin, including speaking badly, is first and foremost vertical (Ps. 51:4). So deal with that higher-order sin by confessing it to God and receiving his forgiveness before attempting to work things out with your child.

5. Go and Use Healing Words

Humble yourself and go to your child (Matt. 5:23–24). Ask if they have a minute. Tell them you really wish you hadn't said what you did. Tell them what was going on in your heart that was wrong. (beware of the myth that, "He or she can make me angry". NO ONE can make us angry. They can reveal the anger that is already in our hearts, but they don't put it there).

Be careful not to blame them or what they were doing for what you said. Own your bad reaction as your issue, not theirs. Ask them to forgive you for what you said. Invite them to talk about how they felt if they want to, but don't demand that they do.

6. Check Your Motives

Ask yourself if this is a good time to talk about what they did, too. It might be but be careful not to make your apology a backdoor way of confronting them. Remind yourself you're apologizing for what you did wrong because you want to restore your relationship, not so you can tell your child how wrong they were. You can always come back later to address their issues.

7. Make Better Memories – Give them the memory of your repentance.

Last, consider what you can invite your child to do with you, such as play a game, bake cookies together, take a walk, kick a soccer ball, watch a movie, or plan a trip. You can't erase the bad memory of what you've done, but you can make new ones that give your child a different, better experience with you. In time, those new memories will push out the old ones.

Because of the GOOD NEWS of the gospel, we get to experience a million second chances. That is not an excuse to sin, it is a provision for a life of repentant faith.

Dads, it is easy to have regrets because of our words. That is true for moms as well, and kids.

Biblical repentance doesn't leave us in a place of regret and despair, it takes us to Jesus. Though He was not a father in his earthly life, He revealed THE FATHER whose grace redeems, restores and strengthens us.

This Father's Day, let us all bow our knees before The Father

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

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Things dads never say

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmzXNf3emrQ>

I don't care how late you stay out

You want to borrow my new car?

You want to borrow my credit card?

Kids today, they really have it rough

I have no idea of where we are or where we're going

When I was there age life was super easy

Why don't you have a tattoo yet?

Why don't you having any piercings yet?

Yep, we're lost

Ooo, yuck, sports

Just do what the mechanic says to do, whatever the cost

Vehicle maintenance is overrated

I wish they had soap operas at night.

I like that boy, you date him immediately

What about the creepy guy with the motorcycle, he's cute?

Sure, spring break in Tahiti sounds good.

Make sure you play all your video games before you start homework

You don't have to pass ALL your classes

You have a project due tomorrow and you know about it for 4 weeks, and you haven't started yet?
Sweet!

Doesn't anyone want to know if we're there yet?

Remember that if you need anything between midnight and 4am, please come wake me up.

I'm on the phone, please bring the baby over so he can crawl all over me.

Hey, can you please turn that music up

We just stopped for lunch 10 minutes ago, but yeah, let's stop again.

I never have trouble with my toddler....teenager....grown children

You know she's right. We are ruining her life.

Yea, tantrums!

We really need to spoil these kids more.

I don't know any good jokes at all.

You're 16, you pretty much know everything.

I think 18 is a great age to get married.

Be sure to leave all the lights on before you leave the house.

Can you leave the front door open for a couple of hours? Thanks

Money really does grow on trees.

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR DADS, JUST THE WAY God MADE THEM. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.

