

Sermon Text.. **Selected**

**10 Commandments for Fathers
Selected**

Invocation Scripture. . **Proverbs 1:8-9**

Main Idea : **The impact of a father on the family is critical! Thus, it is vital that a man live by certain clear principless and values.**

Objective : **To challenge us to carefully evaluate our lives and strive daily to live in such a way that the world can see Christ in us.**

**10 Commandments for Fathers
Selected**

1. Love God... Deut 6:5
2. One God alone... Exo 20:3
3. Worship God. Heb 10:25
4. Watch your mouth. Eph 4:29
5. Love your wife. Eph 5:25
6. Love your Children. No Specific Vs
7. Do Right always. Rom 12:17
8. Be generous, give. Luke 6:38
9. Do Good to all men. Eph 4:32
10. Be a witness. Matt 28:19-20

Good morning beloved! Here we are celebrating Father’s Day!

Father’s day had a much harder time getting started than did Mother’s day. There are actually two different women who are credited with it’s inception. Sonora Smart Dodd was the daughter of American Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. She was born in Lind, Sebastian County, Arkansas in 1882 to farmer William Jackson Smart (1842-1919) and his wife Ellen Victoria Cheek Smart (1851-1898). William Smart was a member of The First Arkansas Light Artillery. The Smart family moved West and finally settled near Spokane, Washington.

When Sonora was 16, her mother died in childbirth with her sixth child. Sonora was the only daughter and shared with her father William in the raising of her younger brothers, including her new infant brother Marshall. Sonora Smart held her father in great esteem. While hearing a church sermon about the newly recognized Mother's Day, Sonora felt strongly that Fatherhood needed recognition as well. She approached the Spokane Ministerial Alliance and suggested her own father's birthday of June 5 as the day of honor for fathers. The Alliance chose the third Sunday in June instead.

Now beloved... There are some men in this world

who would say that any man can be a father.

From a biological standpoint I guess this is true but listen friends, being a good and Godly father requires a lifetime investment.

I suspect that the number one problem for father's today is time. Finding a way to make time for our children, time for our wife, time for household chores. Work has its continual call. The culture seems to call us to be work-a-holics who rise early and come home late, and then beckons us to bring a stack of paperwork home, such that it eats into our family life. And guess what... tragedy upon tragedy.... it's not just men anymore, who fall prey to this, but it's women now too!

I think the second leading enemy that rob's time from Father for his wife and family, is television... And maybe in the generations behind me, now, television and video games.

Nielsen Media noted that in 2005 the Average American family watched 8 hours and 11 minutes of television a day. Now add to that, computers, emails, instant messaging, and cell phones, and it is no wonder that we have so little time for our families.

But there is some encouraging news... An article in USA Today magazine back in August of 2000 showed that father's are actually spending more time with their children now than back in the 1970's and yet, for many children, though Dad is around more, they only spend 12 minutes in meaningful conversation a day.

Listen men, I don't care what the media says, I

don't care how we are portrayed on television, the fact is, our families need us. They need our strength, they need the stability that we can provide, they need the courage and comfort that the security and courage brings. But more than anything else, they need our love. Psychology tell's us that our children develop their sense of God as a direct result of their relationship with their father.

Sigmund Freud stated, "*I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection.*"

So.... in light of this, let me share with you today, a message that I have entitled, **10 Commandments for Fathers**. I share this as a tool, a tool to help us be, who it is that God desires... A tool to help us set the course for our lives... a tool to keep us on the straight path.... a tool to remind us, who it is that we really ought to be.

Take your Bible then and walk with me through 10 scriptures today.

<<< **Read: Deu 6:5** >>>

- 1. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deu 6:5 NASB)**

Listen men, this is the place we must begin. Our relationship to God is the most important relationship that we will ever have. If this relationship is not straight, no other relationship will be like it should be.

I know that there are many men who have lived what the world would say was a good life, even a moral life. They were a good dad, but they were not a Christian.

Because man is made in the image of God and because the truth of the Bible has impacted every world culture, man can live what might be called a “good life” but the truth is, we can’t and won’t live a GODLY life apart from Faith in Jesus Christ!

In addition, I am convinced that it is only by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and the truth of God’s Word that we can truly raise up our children in the fear and the nurture of the Lord!

If we truly love God, then we will be able to truly love our family and that, more than anything else, is exactly what they need. For it is the love of God, and only the love of God that will move us to love our families sacrificially. Without that, we may love ourselves more than we love our families. What a tragedy then... for both! Ok... #2

<<< **Read: Exo 20:3** >>>

2. You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exo 20:3 NASB)

At first glance you may wonder why this is hear. But if you stop and consider the earlier comments about TV viewing time and you sort that out for men and then begin to discover how much time, energy and effort

men invest in sports, whether that be American Football, world football (Soccer), fishing, hunting, and/or a host of other things we might name, which may also include WORK! We begin to see that indeed sports, entertainment, the outdoors, and any number of other things can too quickly and too easily, replace God as the center and focus of our lives.

And guess what... when that happens, as noted in the first commandment for fathers, everything... everything will then be out of place and skewed!

Listen men... listen to me... It is vital that we carefully and regularly evaluate our lives and perhaps even establish an accountability relationship with some one whom we love and respect, who can ask us the hard questions, point out to us when they see things that are out of place or out of balance in our lives!

There is enough in the world to pull on us, we can’t afford to have but one God, and that **MUST** be the God of the Bible! (*Pause*) 3rdly today...

<<< **Read: Heb 10:25** >>>

3. Do not forsake assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encourage your family to worship God. Heb 10:25

If in fact we do love and serve God, then we must Worship God, the reality of the priority of our Faith must be visible, it must be tangible, it must be real and must be a VITAL part of our life if we have any

thought or hope that our children will walk in the same path.

If the worship of God, which includes prayer, Bible study, personal devotions, family devotions, and as this passage in Hebrews points out, Worship attendance, is not exemplified as important in our lives, then we have done our children, our wife and most importantly the Lord our God, the greatest disservice we could ever perpetrate.

I ran across a little poem years ago that speaks to this commandment for fathers very clearly. I did a little editing to make it flow better.... listen to it.

"Daddy Had a Little Boy"

A Father's Poem

*Daddy had a little boy, His soul was white as snow.
He never went to Sunday School cause Daddy wouldn't go.
He never heard the Word of God. That thrills the childish mind,
While other children went to class, This child was left behind.
As he grew from babe to youth, Dad saw to his dismay,
A soul that once was as white as snow was now a dingy grey.
Realizing that his son was lost, Dad tried to win him back.
But now the soul that once was white, Had turned an ugly black.
Dad even started back to church, and Bible study too;
He begged the preacher many times ,
"Is there something you can do?"
The preacher tried, and failed, and said "We're just too far behind;
I tried to tell you years ago, But you would pay no mind."
And so another soul was lost, that once was white as snow;
Sunday School would sure have helped, but Daddy wouldn't go.*

The 4th command

<<< **Read: Eph 4:29** >>>

4. Let no unwholesome (KJV: corrupt) word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Eph 4:29 NASB)

I guess that to me, one of the most tragic things I have seen in our world today is how base language has become. Not just in terms of the vulgarity that you hear, which in and of itself is horrible, but the types of jokes, the crudeness and baseness that is seen as humor today... All of these things are tragic, and they fill the mind of our children and taint their lives and their thinking.

Perhaps as much as any of the other commands for father listed, this is critical. This not only includes bad words, off colored jokes and other such things, beloved, it includes lies, slander, gossip and other things that we say that are destructive.

Someone has said that "*Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.*" Regretfully that is not true. There are words that have been said in anger, frustration, and in the midst of temper that are still remembered today by some, where broken arms, or legs, bumps and bruises and cuts, are long sense... long sense forgotten.

<<< **Read: James 3:1-10** >>>

Need I say more... the 5th commandment for Fathers

<<< **Read: Eph 5:25** >>>

5. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

There is probably no other thing that we do, that will more help the future of the world, the spread of true Biblical Christianity, than to properly, consistently, and overtly love our wife before our children!

Many a man, has set the pattern for destructive, painful and sad marriage and family life for their children by not loving the mother of His children! I fear that we too often forget that our children see us in the private world of our lives. They see how we really act at home, they see the essence of the nature of our character and attitude and they see and learn what love means by how they see us treat their mother.

Theodore M. Hesburgh has well said, *“The most important thing that a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”*

Have you ever considered that it is very possible that the lives of your grandchildren, the harmony and happiness of their home, or the lack thereof, may very well be dependent on how you love your wife!

Treat her as the precious, wonderful creation of God that she is. How often have men told me, “she knows I love her...” Well... maybe she does... maybe she doesn't. The only way she can know for sure is if you tell her and if you turn those words also into actions! Let me share one final verse concerning this

5th commandment.

1 John 3:18 *...let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

<<< **Read: Eph 6:4** >>>

6. Fathers, love your children, just as Christ loves them and gave Himself for them. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4 NASB)

It was interesting to me concerning this commandment I wrote, is that I could not find a place in the scripture where a man is told to love his children?

Could it be that this like the importance of leaders in America being Christian, is one of the *“Truths we hold to be self evident...”* As Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence?

Is it so obvious that it need not be stated? Perhaps, but as I pondered this and scoured the scriptures, I become suddenly aware that ||: **the picture we have in the Bible of the importance of loving our children is taught to us by God Himself, in the picture of how He loves us.:**|| (Pause) HELLO!!!!

Let me say that one again! (*Repeat above*)

Perhaps the strongest example of that can be seen in 1 John 3:1 *See how great a love the Father has*

bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.

O dear friends.... Love your children, love them with your words, love them with your deeds, love them with your touches, love them with your time, love them with your entire self. Nothing else that you ever do will pay the kinds of incredibly rich dividends that our intentionally loving our children will pay!
The 7th Commandment for fathers...

<<< **Read: Rom 12:17** >>>

7. (Eph 4:32 NASB) And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

I guess as you look at this 7th commandment, it may seem that we should understand it as a given. But in this incredibly messed up world today we can not take anything for granted beloved! We must address every facet of live. This idea is one that I fear is sorely missing in families today. I have seen, too many times, people treating total strangers with more courtesy, more patience, more kindness than they do their own family members.

As the passage in James said, "*these things ought not to be!*" And yet... they are. Listen men, we need to teach our children to be kind, to be tender hearted. As those who are usually the strongest, and perhaps the first to be hot-headed, brash or harsh, we must show the

power of God and the truth of His Word, in it's ability to conform us and to help us to be kind.

Perhaps more than any thought in this verse, we much teach our children how to forgive. They must see the reality of what true forgiveness looks like. The it is full, that it is complete, that it is free for the asking. **If we fail at this, our children may find it difficult, if not impossible to come to God with a penitent spirit seeking His forgiveness and the gift of eternal life through faith in Christ!....** Should I repeat that?... I think I should...

This command also is the commandment that begins to bridge us from God and family to the world outside. For though family members can hurt us and do things that are sinful against us, the world will tend to do much more of this, for it has no built in love for us as our family does. It makes no provision for our short comings, as our family might. We must teach kindness and a forgiving spirit.

As the 5th commandment to love your wife more than others affects the future family, this 7th commandment, perhaps more than any other, affects the world we live in, the world that we will leave for our grandchildren. The 8th Commandment then...

<<< **Read: Luke 6:38** >>>

8. (Luke 6:38 NASB) "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your

lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Beloved, we continue to loose site of the importance of giving, of seeing others needs and having a sincere heartfelt desire to meet those needs.

Partly because we are so overtaxed, who would have imagined that we would pay 25% to 30% of our income in taxes, then add to that the taxes on food, clothing, gasoline, homes, automobiles, local taxes, city taxes, state taxes.... death taxes, estate taxes. But also due to the attitude and training we receive.

It is a fact that the world is becoming less generous, less benevolent. It is also a fact, and I shared the statistics with you many months ago in another message, that those who are on the lower side of middle are the most generous, not the moderately and extravagantly rich, but those on the lower side of the middle who give the greatest percentage to help others.

The world is in desperate need of people who are not greedy... The world needs to see generous and giving people. God desires that we be generous and giving, just as He Himself is, in fact, remember, we read in 2 Cor 9:7

Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

O beloved, as with each of these, so much more could

be said, but time will not permit... Consider then with me the 9th Commandment for Fathers

<<< **Read: Eph 4:32** >>>

9. (Rom 12:17 NASB) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Again, beloved, this command though important within the home, is more focused on the world that we will leave our children. I debated at length whether to use this verse or the passage we call the Golden rule as provided in Matthew and Luke

Mat 7:12 "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

I chose this verse in Romans, because there seems to be so much hostility in our world today. People seem very ready to vindicate and avenge themselves. We need to leave vengeance to God. He will take care of all things and we need to live our lives according to the high standards that God calls us to live to.

I also chose the verse because it speaks a fundamental truth that I believe is important for us to clearly teach our children. I have told you a little phrase the Lord gave me years ago when I was pastor at Warwick Bpatist Church

It is never right to do what is wrong and it is never wrong to do what is right.

Finally today men... one last command.

<<< **Read: Matt 28:19-20** >>>

10. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, {20} teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Mat 28:19-20 NASB)

This is the call of God for every believer and that which more than any other command has the ability to change the culture that our children will live in.

It is critical that we learn to share our faith, critical in order for us to be able to share it with our children so that they might come to faith in Christ. Critical that we might share with other family members and friends! Critical so that we can share our faith with others so that they world would be more conformed to the will of God and the image of Christ!

Well men... 10 Commandments for Fathers... perhaps in reality, with a few adjustments they are really 10 Commandments for Christian Living.

It is my prayer that they will help you, strengthen you, and cause you to daily, become more the man that God wants you to be.

Let us pray