

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

By Keith Greer

In our country, today is a national holiday of sorts – Father's Day. This is the day we honor fathers for their contributions to our earthly families. A father is an important part of the home as designed by God. Fathers are supposed to be the spiritual leaders in their homes. Sadly, if more fathers took this role seriously, our nation would be in much better shape than it is now. What makes a good father? Let me offer a couple of suggestions.

Fathers must put God first in their lives. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." {Colossians 3:1,2} Good fathers are those who first have a spiritual relationship with God – as their Father. Such fathers will always be seeking ways to guide their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord {Ephesians 6:4}. Children need to see that their fathers have lists of established priorities and that God is at the top of those lists. It's not just talk; their actions must back up their priorities. Godly fathers will lead by example and show by the choices made in their lives that God indeed is their top priority. What does your child or grandchildren see as the most important thing in your life?

Fathers must truly love their children. "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." {Colossians 3:21} Fathers must strive to always show tender affection and love for their children. Part of that love involves applying discipline, when it is needed; it must be applied with love, but it must be applied {Proverbs 23:13,14}. Parents who don't instill in their children the need for God and godly values as part of their lives are not displaying the proper love that God demands of them as a father!

Yes, we should all remember our fathers on this special day. Your father may not be perfect, but he's the only father you have. Be thankful for the life you've been afforded because of the love and care you received at home from your father. Happy Father's Day dads! ***