**FATHER’S DAY 2021**

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**Joel 1:3:**

**Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.**

**Colossians 3:18-21 (NIV)**
18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
21 Fathers do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

**Ephesians 5:22-33 (NIV)**
22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.
23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.
24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,
27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church--
30 for we are members of his body.
31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."
32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.
33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**Ezekiel 22:30 – “I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.”**

I remember my Dad - Merle Gray – He grew up in Canton, South Dakota. He was the son of a barber, and my Dad became a barber as well. The Gray family of Canton did fairly well financially. Grandpa ran his own shop in Canton and as his Dad was a truck farmer my grandfather had a large garden too.

My Dad was a hard worker. He got up early and lit the stoves for several of the business places in Canton.

He was adventurous in that he had a motorcycle and climbed the steep Canton Hill.

The Gray family were not church attenders, so Dad did not attend church. And this continued into marriage. He somehow – I do not know how – met my mother who was a regular church attender. She was a Lutheran and became a registered Nurse.

Dad, Mom, and I moved to Harrisburg, South Dakota where Dad operated a barber shop. Haircuts were twenty five cents. Soon it was sixty five cents but were no higher than three dollars.

Dad did not attend church and my mother did not at that time either - although she attended ladies gatherings at the Methodist Church, and I attended Sunday morning worship at the same church. My Mother waited for Dad to attend church, so she stayed home. I attended the Methodist Church on Sunday’s.

Dad met many people at the shop. Somehow he decided to attend church. They attended Springdale Lutheran and Dad took instructions for membership, was baptized, and attended worship regularly.

I have no idea who all influenced Dad besides my mother and her family.

Dad was a good Dad. He spent heavily on Christmas, built me a special bedroom, he even had a special building for me, he even had a phone put in my room and since I edited my own newspaper, he bought a screen printer for me.

When in collage, he paid the tuition and helped pay for tuition when I attended Bible School.

There were some times when he required me to do some work – like when I wanted a school annual and shoveled gravel for it. I did shovel corn out of the bins.

All of us have something to share about their Dad’s -good or bad!

But today where have all the Father’s gone?

**The family we see in the Bible is disappearing!**

Someone has said that only one third of our nation’s children have a Father living with them. This comes because of the rising of crime, to children and women getting pregnant before they should, violence, and growing divorces, drugs, and other things.

My observation is that there are those teen that think that they can speed in their cars – nothing will happen; they can take drugs and not be addicted, and they can have sex and there will be no pregnancy.

Children without Fathers are more likely to be depressed, more likely to get poor grades or skip or drop out of school, more likely to be violent. **Some fathers neglect their children, and the result can be the same for their children as if he were not at home!**

**Our son Michael has two daughters. He did a lot of I guess it can be called “horsing around. I think this is good!**

**Dad’s doing things with their son(s) or daughters – treating them well.**

**Even Grandpas can do this – my ride with Lucas!**

**Pray for them and with them!**

**S0m**echildren do not even know one Christian!

One boy I confirmed asked me in a one to one conversation – as he was born before his mother was married, “Since I was born in the way I was born, can I be saved?” Of course, was my answer. I have him as a friend on Facebook.

When we know of those like this guy, can we fill in the gap?

There is no replacing of the Father in the family. We need active Fathers. As a Pastor I have played catch with boys who have no father, whose Dads have passed away, or because of divorce. Also, I have been active as a big brother. Standing in the gap.

We enjoyed going on camping trips using our seventeen foot camper!

I hate to say it – might step on toes – some Dads and Moms are too busy! If we are too busy our children will follow.

I was too busy doing church work that there were times I neglected the family.

Do we experience urgency and have no time to relax, have fun with your spouse and family?

Are you living with tension that leads you to say things you regret?

Maybe you would like a simpler life?

 We do not have devotions, our children follow.

What is needed for parents is quietness and solitude. A time of prayer to be alone! The Lord comes to us when we are quiet.

There is also a need to have fun together.

Family is important – but it is not in first place, our relationship to the Lord is first!

All of us need to realize that while getting a good job is important, getting a good job is not the goal of parenting. The goal is to train our children up to walk with Jesus.

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1. Wives be subject to their husbands
2. The reason is given in verse 23: Marriage of a man and wife is symbolic of Jesus – the bridegroom and the church – a whole study in itself – Jesus is the head of the church.
3. Husbands Love Your wife – why? Answer is in verses 26-27
4. Husbands Love Your Wife as you do yourself
5. The two will become (are) one flesh
6. Wives are to respect their husbands

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In a study I completed the instructor came up with four things that harm a marriage and lead to problems and divorce.

1. Criticism
2. Defensiveness
3. Contempt
4. With drawl