

*In
Search
of...*

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the
**Wellsburg
church of Christ**
Which meets at:
112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

*We appreciate so much
your presence here with
us today. We would like
to extend an invitation
to join us at any of our
other times of worship.*

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Classes* 10:00 AM

AM Worship 10:45 AM

PM Worship 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM

(* Bible Classes for All Ages)

Today's lesson:

*A New
Beginning*

*Audio CD's are available
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:
www.truthandright.org*

*If you have any questions regarding
what we teach and practice, please
feel free to ask*

Disconnected Dads

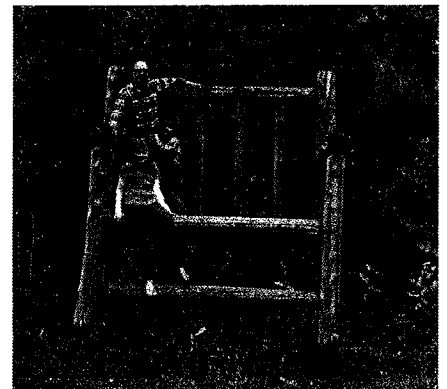
Rusty Miller

via-The Auburn Beacon—12-19-2010

Many years ago, there was a blues song called "Motherless Children." But there is cause to wonder, if a similar song were written today, if it might not be called "Fatherless Children."

First, there is the growing trend among successful (as the world counts success) women in their late 30's and early 40's to raise children without fathers. Then there are those who are fathers only biologically, refusing to take responsibility for their sinful lifestyles. And there are the great number of children deprived of fathers by divorce.

However, the most disturbing trend of all is the one which has fathers taking a "hands off" approach to their children. These fathers live in



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the home, but they refuse to connect with their children. Some have an old, macho “children are women’s work” mentality, but many others are just disconnected from their families. It may be their jobs, their hobbies or their friends, but they allow something to keep them from interacting with their families. The fact that this trend also impacts so many kids in the Lord’s church makes it important for us to discuss.

The disconnected father is not the model found in scripture. In fact, the bulk of instruction given on raising children is given to fathers. There is the responsibility of husbands and fathers to provide for their families (1 Timothy 5:8), but there is so much more, and frankly, too many men think their responsibilities toward their children end with earning a paycheck.

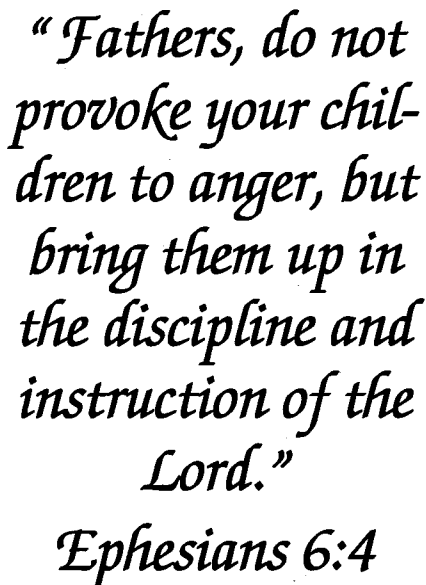
God urges fathers concerning their children, *“bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4). It is easily recognized that mothers generally spend far more time with their children than do fathers, but that does not diminish the role God designed for men. God expects the father to be active in the spiritual nourishing of his children. How can we so easily see that neglecting the physical needs of children is condemned, yet we think somehow we can be right in the eyes of God while not providing for them spiritually?

How do fathers “connect” with their children? Time. There is no replacement for spending time with children, if we expect to have any influence in their lives. And while we might be expected to focus on the spiritual, we also recognize the importance of “connecting” on a social level, and that can be time spent at children’s ball games or music recitals, or it could be time spent with a child on Dad’s favorite hobby or the child’s favorite

hobby. The point is, make sure your children know you are interested in their lives.

What happens to the children of disconnected fathers? First, when they reach their teen years, when children need more freedom and tend to push things, they are angered by fathers who now seek to set rules, to enact punishment for rule-breaking or to interact in their lives. They don’t understand why this man who has never been involved on a “hands on” basis in their lives, should now be the one to whom they answer as they approach adulthood. God said, *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger”* (Ephesians 6:4), and *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart”* (Colossians 3:21). Isn’t this exactly what we do when we live dis-

connected from our children, only to try and “step in” when we think they need correction?



*“Fathers, do not
provoke your chil-
dren to anger, but
bring them up in
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instruction of the
Lord.”*
Ephesians 6:4

Another difficult problem for these children is in developing a faith in God which is theirs. They are not interested in the faith which has given them such a father, so they reject it. Unfortunately, if Dad’s view of the *“instruction of the Lord”* is again, one of provider (“I took them to church every Sunday!”), they may reject the salvation of God based on Dad’s poor representation of it. Psalm 127:3 says, *“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord.”*

What a dreadful position to be in on the day of judgment if God has to point to children who have rejected Him and ask us, “What did you do with My gift?”

It is far better that we should be the kind of fathers who are connected with our children, and who live our spirituality before them and teach them of God’s way. That is what Moses instructed for the fathers of his day (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Exodus 12:21-28). God never intended for us to live disconnected from our children, because He has entrusted us with their souls.

*Small Steps That
Lead to Great
Understanding*
by-Gary Henry

***“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him” —
Luke 15:20***

Because the path ahead seems uncertain and difficult, we often fail to take the steps that lie clearly before us. If we allow it to happen, doubt and difficulty can paralyze us. Not having found God already, and seeing no way out of our confusion, we neglect to seek Him at all. Our search for truth is stymied.

But the steps that we COULD take are the most important. Usually, it is small steps toward God, taken in trust, that lead to great understanding. Jesus spoke of the honest soul who “comes to the light” (John 3:21). Obviously, enlightenment must be sought, and the seeking can be arduous. But we do not “come to the light” by mere worry or fretfulness. More is involved than simply trying to figure things out intellectually.

Godly wisdom must be sought ACTIVELY and OBEDIENTLY. If conscience can indicate only a step or two, then a great deal depends on our taking those steps. What we don’t know must never prevent us from doing the duty we do know. We must use the light we

already have — or cease to expect any more.

God graciously honors whatever steps we take in faith, even if those steps seem slight. Numerous biblical texts give us this confidence. “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). God will see that we get the information we need to do the right thing, if doing the right thing is what we really intend.

Courage, much more than “intelligence,” is the key to great understanding in the things of God. The courageous not only think but ACT WITH INTEGRITY TO WHAT THEY ALREADY KNOW. It is the honestly obedient who find the light they’re looking for, while the idly curious find only that the darkness grows more fearful. Active seekers are told: “If you seek Him, He will be found by you” (2 Chronicles 15:2). God is more than a disinterested witness to our quest. If our true purpose is to get back home, our Father will meet us much more than half way.

*“Whoso draws
nigh to God one
step through
doubtings dim,
God will advance
a mile in blazing
light to him”
—Angelus Silesius*

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Wayne Campbell
Announcements	Nathan Marshall
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Mark 11:1-14
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Dave Harless
Fruit of the Vine	Tim Henderson
Serve	Don Coen, Sr.
Serve	CJ Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Bryan Legg

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

Sunday PM

Announcements	Nathan Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Mark 11:15-33
Reader	Bryan Legg
1st Prayer	Wayne Campbell
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Ed Roberts
Announcements	Nathan Marshall
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Invitation	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

News N Notes

Please remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- Wayne and Charena Campbell

Sick/ Poor Health:

- Don & Phyllis Coen
- Zeda Goddard is at her daughters
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Robert Schwerferger, Alberta Headen's brother-in-law.
- Grace Lancaster
- Ronald Lancaster, is in Weirton Hospital
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Harold Marshall, Sr., Harold's father, will be having a heart catheterization Tuesday.
- William Morris, Nancy Morris' brother-in-law, had a stroke and is in the hospital.
- Alfred and Mary Jane Myers
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Marie Roberts
- Gabriel Taylor, 5 year old great grandson of Don & Phyllis, dealing with cancer.
- Trudell Tennant

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Ann's Retreat:

- Josephine Clow

Brightwood Center:

- Shirley Campbell

Valley Haven:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

Weirton Geriatric Center:

- Kitty Morgan

At Home:

- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap
- Ann Rudolph

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please contact Tim Henderson