

## Fathers Day 2011 ...June 19, 2011 ..Matthew 28

Showing love as a husband and a Father isn't always easy. There's the story of the Dad staying home with his 18 month old daughter. While watching T.V. the daughter came with her little tea set to have "tea" with her Dad. She came in with a cup of "tea" for dad that was of course, only water. Dad drank the "tea" and made a fuss over how wonderful it was. This happened over and over again with Dad telling her how great her "tea" was every time. The little girl was so proud of herself. Finally Mom came home, surveyed what was going on and started to laugh hysterically. Dad drank some more "tea" and Mom commented, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place a baby can reach to get water is in the toilet?" Good Daddy!

The role of fathers or father-figures in the lives of children has become more and more important over the years. With the divorce rate going up, for lots of reasons, kids need a strong Christian male in their lives. Studies show that when Mom and Dad worship with the children, 72% of the children remain faithful. When it's only Mom, and God bless them, it's only 15%. Dads can make a difference.

Paul writes to the Christians at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 4 that he knows they have guardians and teachers to care for them, but that he has come to be a father to them. He knows that being their father is most important to their spiritual growth. Our Lord Jesus was always in contact with His Heavenly Father through prayer. His Heavenly Father spoke to Jesus and told Him how proud He was to be Jesus' Father. Words of encouragement are important. Encouragement from our father is special.

I was blessed with a loving father who was a great role model for the 17 years I had him. Dad taught me to play sports, about the Funeral business, the importance of reaching out to people who were hurting, and the importance of worship and involvement in the Church. I will always be thankful that he was my Dad.

Our world is often a very sad and negative-minded place. Around us we see death and dying. We see wars, violence, senseless pain and hurt, suffering and loss. We see loneliness, homeless people, and children starving for food and love. The need is greater than ever for people to hear that God does love them. They need to hear that Jesus came to die for their sins, bringing forgiveness and a new life and new hope. God the Father cares for all of His children, listens to them, responds to them, forgives them through the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Son, and offers a heavenly home through faith worked in us by the Holy Spirit. We all reflect our Heavenly Father's love as we share that message. What message are we giving when we are too busy to care.. .too tied up at work for good-night hug... too insecure to sing "Jesus Loves me" to a little one? Because God is Good.. All The Time, He has given us the responsibility to be His hands, His feet, His voice to a world of hurting children. That's what making disciples is all about. He wants us to be like the pastor who had a young boy from a broken home in his parish. The boy would come late for church and leave early. He felt that being fatherless made him insecure and less of a person. One Sunday the pastor tricked him with a quick Benediction. Waiting for the child at

the back, the pastor asked the boy who he was. No answer was given. Then the pastor patted him on the head and said, "Wait, I know. You're a child of God!" That makes you very special." The boy's life was changed forever by a man who didn't have to drink toilet water to make it happen.  
Amen. pastor matthews