



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends

One of the days that makes May special is Mother's Day. Even though we seem to reciprocate with Father's Day in June, Mother's Day takes all the attention and it seems sometimes like Father's Day is like an afterthought. Groucho Marx humorously brought this to light a while ago, when I heard him sing about Father's Day, all he got was a tie.

One thing we do know is that both days have become highly "retail driven" especially with the greeting card and restaurant business. In fact, it is interesting to note that the "official" first person who promoted Mother's Day, became angry and upset when she saw commercialism happen.

But this should negate the significance of both days, and I think the need to say "thanks" to both fathers and mothers. Even though my parents have been gone for some time now, I think I appreciate more and more their part in my life. Parenting can be a fulfilling calling even though it is hard work and has constant challenges.

Since I've been a parent for 37 years, I thought it would be appropriate to say something about how the role of faith has been an important part for me in my role as father.

First is the role of prayer. I pray for my son and daughter on a regular if not daily basis. It really does help. This is especially true when your children are gone and away from you. I have seen challenging situations our children have had in their lives over the years, and by lifting them up in prayer I have seen God's good answers for them. I am thinking about one situation I prayed about, and as my concern was growing there did not seem to be an answer coming. But God did answer on God's timetable, not mine. So, when you are in worrisome place, pray. Put it in God's hands, and try to trust God's timing.

Second is the need for forgiveness and grace on many levels. Parents and children don't always get it right. Many times, when we don't get it right it is way after the fact. That's ok. Any time is a good time to seek God's forgiveness, and as we confess to him the Bible tells us he is more than willing to forgive. There have been times God has moved me to ask forgiveness from my children as well.

Finally thank God for the time you have with them. There was a popular song many years ago by the late Mike Douglas called, "There's a boy outside...". It was popular during the time I was a teenager and into my twenties. Mike Douglas tells this story to background music about a daughter who brings a boy home from her childhood years to the day she brings home the man she is going to marry. At the time, I thought that was the stupidest, sappy song I had ever heard. But you know, after experiencing the passing of the years with my own children, the message of the song is so true. Now that our son and daughter are adults and live far away from us we give thanks to God for every phone chat, text, and face to face visit we have.

So, Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day. May we give thanks and remember those who filled that role in our lives, as well for some of us the privilege from God of being a parent.

Your Brother in Christ,

John

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