

## Fact Sheet for “Father’s Day” Ephesians 6:1-4

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06/21/2015 Father’s Day

“A bill to accord national recognition of the holiday was introduced in Congress in 1913. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson went to **Spokane** to speak in a Father's Day celebration and wanted to make it official, but Congress resisted, fearing that it would become commercialized. US President Calvin Coolidge recommended in 1924 that the day be observed by the nation, but stopped short of issuing a national proclamation. Two earlier attempts to formally recognize the holiday had been defeated by Congress. In 1957, Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith wrote a proposal accusing Congress of ignoring fathers for 40 years while honoring mothers, thus “[singling] out just one of our two parents”. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.<sup>[19]</sup> Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.”<sup>1</sup>

This is the origin of our national holiday. But our political landscape continues to march on and the definition of family continues to change in our country. In some single mother families, or two mother families, fathers are considered unnecessary. But this is not the way God created us (see Genesis 1:27). Shortly after that Adam and Eve began raising Cain, and the family began.

What does the Bible have to say about honoring fathers? There are several things, but we can't cover them all. Let's take four verses from Ephesians 6 this morning. For the immediate context of Ephesians 6:1-4 you need to start reading in 5:15. The context is that of being filled with the Spirit (5:18), and part of that is submitting to one another.

Wives and Husbands (5:22-33)

Children and Fathers (6:1-4)

Slaves and Masters (6:5-9)

Take a closer look now at one of those couplets (6:1-4).

ESV <sup>1</sup> **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

“Children” – a reference to under age children.

“right” – “righteous”

<sup>2</sup> **"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),** <sup>3</sup> **"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."**

This is one of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, but it is the first and only commandment of the ten that had a promise attached to it, the promise found in verse 3. The command is to honor. For a child this included both honor and obedience (verse 1).

*Parents, to let your child get away with disobeying you or dishonoring you is to teach your child to ignore this commandment of God.*

Notice that obedience to parents is commanded of children, but not of adults. However, honor is still required of adults for their parents. Consider the following passage.

ESV **Matthew 15:1-9<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia.

<sup>2</sup> Parallel passage: Mark 7:1-13.

<sup>1</sup> Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, <sup>2</sup> "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat."

*The words "tradition of the elders" refers to their oral law, not the Scriptures.*

*Their objection is about the observance of ceremony, not hygiene.*

<sup>3</sup> He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'<sup>3</sup> <sup>5</sup> But you say, 'If anyone <sup>4</sup> tells his father or his mother, 'What you would have gained from me is given to God,' <sup>6</sup> he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: <sup>8</sup> "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>9</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"<sup>5</sup>

*This was a grown man. Jesus makes it clear that he was still required by God to honor his father and mother.*

Now be careful. Some of you may have had a very rough relationship with one or both of your parents, due to their own choices. God is not commanding us to honor their sin. God is not commanding us to give them an award for being the world's best parent.

*The way this man should have honored his parents was by helping them in their need.*

God, in this couplet, now gives instruction to fathers.

**<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**

Fathers should submit to their children in this way. You can sense the love required to do this well.

Yesterday Russ and Virginia Wayland were honored by their daughters, family, and friends in North Bend on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It's easy to see why.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Their love for God**

This goes far beyond their acceptance of Christ.

This goes to their eagerness to live according to God's Word, to love what He loves, to value what he values, and to model His Word.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Their love for each other**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Their love for their family**

**4<sup>th</sup> – Their love for the church, the family of God**

Father's, here's the message today from Ephesians and from example... cultivate the same loves in your life. In fact, this same encouragement is true for all of us.

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<sup>3</sup> Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9.

<sup>4</sup> "A man" in Mark 7:11.

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 29:13.