

FATHERS' DAY SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE AGNES B HILDEBRAND A M E CHURCH,

MABOPANE

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I S MFUNDISI

For purposes of this speech we are not going to dwell on the origins of Fathers' day or go back to 1910 in Arkansas when the day was first celebrated.

Suffice to say as much as we celebrate Mothers' day, it makes good sense to celebrate Fathers' day. The rub is on the fact that On Mothers' day the emphasis is on telling how good and great Mothers are yet on Fathers' day we tell Fathers what they need to do to be great. It is as if a Mother "automatically" becomes great while a Father must continually work at it.

Even today I am going to follow that trend.

A Father may be described as follows:

- A person who growls when he feels good and laughs very loud when he is scared
- A person who gets very angry when school grades are not as good as he thinks they should be
- A person who hurries away from the breakfast table, off to an arena which is sometimes called an office. There with calloused hands he tackles the dragon with three heads: weariness, work and monotony
- A person who gives his daughter to a man who is nearly not good enough so he can have grandchildren that are better than anyone else's
- A dad is a fellow who has replaced the currency in his wallet with snapshots of his family

In life a boy loves his mother but follows his father.

A Father should be a **PROVIDER** for his family because according to St Paul if a man does not provide for his own he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. He told Thessalonians that "if a man would not work, neither should he eat". It is the responsibility of a father to provide food and shelter for his family.

The privilege of providing for a family meets some deep inner need of man and makes him feel complete.

A Father should be a **PROTECTOR**. Families need authority figure. The lack of such a figure is seen nowadays in the rise in suicides, drug abuse, alcoholism etc.

Fathers have to be worthy and accept that responsibility. A man inherits some respect but

most of it must be earned by consistent living.

A father has to be a **PUNISHER**. Prov. 13: 24 “He that spareth the rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. Never punish your child when you are angry. You don’t punish a child to satisfy your pride but you do it for their good. Complement and criticize your child’s behavior – not the child. (A minister punished his son who went to play cricket without permission for three days. Then the priest said the boy was going to be punished by sleeping in the upper room of the house for as many days as he was away from home. When night came the priest went to the upper room and found the boy in there with only water to drink. The priest embraced the boy and slept with him for all three days- he also got punished)

A father must set the **PATTERN** in his home. A man was crossing a field to a tavern one day and when he looked behind him he saw his son. “Look dad” the boy exclaimed excitedly. “I’m following your footsteps”. The man immediately turned around and went home. He never went there (to the tavern) again.

A father should be a **PRIEST** in his home. Deut 6: 4-9 “hear o Israel: the Lord is one Lord. And thou shall love the Lord with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sitteth in thine house, and when thou walkest away, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thy eyes. And thou shalt write them upon posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

A CHECKLIST FOR FATHERS

1. Do you love the mother of your children more? Eph 5: 25. Husbands love your wives. Open the car door for her, place her chair at the table; give her gifts on special occasions. Praise her in the presence of your children.
2. Do you listen more to your children. Imagine a father concentrating in a newspaper and when the son shows him that he (son) is hurt on the finger the father blurts” What do you think I should do”, and the boy simply answers: “Just say, “Oh”. Perhaps the time has come that Fathers should not take office work hoe!
3. Seek more opportunities to give children a sense of belonging. Know their birthdays and do something on such days. Pray for and with them regarding their studies
4. Praise your children more. Correct the wrong; Commend the right
5. Is God your heavenly Father?

Fathers have to be heroes for their children.

Noah, the labourer. With his ark he saved the world. Abraham was a visionary. He was loved where he lived. Moses was a leader.

WALK A LITTLE PLAINER DADDY

ANONYMOUS

“Walk a little plainer, Daddy,”
Said a little by so frail.
“I’m following in your footsteps
And don’t want to fail.
Sometimes your steps are very plain;
Sometimes they are hard to see;
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,
For you are leading me.
I know that once you walked this way many years ago,
And what you did along the way
I’d really want to know:
For sometimes I am tempted
I don’t know what to do
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,
For I must follow you.
Someday when I am grown up
You are like I want to be.
Then I will have a little boy
Who will want to follow me
And I would want to lead him right
And help him to be true.
So walk a little plainer, Daddy
For we must follow you.”

