

Last year, researchers asked 7,000 Christian pastors in the US: “Which church services had the highest attendance?” Not surprisingly, Christmas was #1. Easter was #2. What came in at #3? Mother’s Day. What came in at #8? Father’s Day. Why is that?

Some say it’s the government. It was back in 1914, that President Woodrow Wilson declared a national Mother’s Day on the second Sunday of May. But it wasn’t until 1972, that President Richard Nixon declared a national Father’s Day on the third Sunday in June.

Some say it’s Moms, who have the biggest impact on kids.”

Two years ago, researchers asked adults this question: “What do think is the most significant family or social problem facing America?” Crime and violence? Substance and alcohol abuse? Poverty? All good guesses. But no. Americans overwhelmingly named being fatherless as the biggest family or social problem in our country. They knew what they were talking about! 25 million children (one-third of all minors) right now live without their biological father. That makes all the difference in the world.

- 85% of youths sitting in jail right now grew-up in a fatherless home.
- 75% of youths seeking substance abuse treatment are in fatherless homes.
- 65% of youth suicides come from fatherless homes.
- The poverty rate for children in fatherless households is %50. In married households it’s 10%.

While Father’s Day is down the list of the highest church attendance list. Yes, Dads are very important. On this Father’s Day, Psalm 115 is going to talk about the importance of fathers, because: **WE’RE CHILDREN OF OUR FATHERS.**

(1) From biological fathers: We’re doomed to death.

(2) From our heavenly Father: We’re given life.

(3) From godly fathers: We’re fearing and praising the Lord.

(1)

Psalm 115 is one of the psalms that OT families memorized and sang in connection with the Passover festival. That’s why it addresses the role of fathers. Where we’ll start today might surprise you! Dads, as biological fathers, we are directly responsible for every problem our children have. They got their sinful nature, their sin and their sinfulness from us.

The only guy who didn't have a sinful nature didn't have an earthly father. Human Dads, since we’re directly responsible for our children's sin, that means we’re also responsible for our children’s death. **The wages of sin is death**, and our Psalm says: **It is not the dead who praise the LORD, those who go down to the place of silence.** It’s not going too far to say our children are at risk of going to hell because of us, their biological fathers.

That’s a real downer. It is, but it’s also a good place to start. Men are made to take responsibility, that’s the way God created us. When things go wrong in the family, we should hold ourselves responsible. When it comes to passing our sin on to our kids, we’re at fault. We take responsibility and then we confess our sins and lead our kids to confess their sins. Since men are also fixers, we solve the problem.

(2)

Except that in this case, we can't. We can't solve the problem of sin and we can't solve the problem of death. We and our wives and our children are going to sin, and we all are going to die. We can't fix it.

But we have a Father, a heavenly one, who can! We read this about him in our psalm: **May the LORD cause you to flourish, both you and your children.** He's got the power to bring good things to us and our children, to forgive us and our children and to make us and our children live

forever. **May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.** Thank God he's our Father. He made us. And when we fell into sin, he remade us and adopted us through his Son, Jesus.

The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to mankind. Truth be told, we inherit both the heavens (eternal life when we die) and the earth (earthly life while we live) through Jesus.

Dads, do you want to solve your sin problem along with your wife's and your kid's sin problem? Trust Jesus! Urge them to trust Jesus! Why Jesus? No one else accepted your sins and their sins and said: *"You're forgiven!"*

Dads, do you want to solve your kids' death problem along with your wife's and your own death problem? Trust Jesus! Urge them to trust Jesus! Why Jesus? No one else pulled himself out of the grave and said: *"You're next!"* Dads, nothing is more important than this? Not your work, not your rest, not your sports, not your kids' sports, nothing! Your heavenly Father and his Son are everything!

(3)

OK, Dads, if you want to be godly fathers, then listen carefully to the rest of our psalm: **He will bless those who fear the LORD—small and great alike. It is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore. Praise the Lord.**

Dads, we're supposed to fear the LORD and praise the LORD. And we're to lead our families to do that. Nothing teaches that better than when we fear, that is respect and revere that Father who is way stronger than ourselves. Kids notice: *"I'm going to follow in my Dad's footsteps and show fear and respect for the Lord."*

We also need to lead to our families praise the LORD. Nothing teaches that better than when we acknowledge that Father is way more skilled than ourselves. Kids notice: *"I'm going to follow in my Dad's footsteps and praise and pray to the Lord."*

Never underestimate how important you are as Dads! Let me hit you with some more statistics. 2% of children who attend church with only their Moms will continue to attend as adults. 44% will continue to attend if they attend church with only their Dads. It's not just what we say as Dads, it's also what we do. Our actions speak louder to our children than our words.

Get to church with your kids. Insist that they come with you whether they are 4, 14, 24, 34 or older. You don't want your kids wandering into hell, do you?

Read the Bible and pray with your kids. It's the best time you'll spend with them. You want your kids going to heaven, don't you?

Some of you, Moms, are saying to yourselves, *"Yeah, but what if Dad is unwilling to do that, or out of the picture?"* And, some of you, Dads, are saying to yourselves, *"I've messed up and my children have been taken away from me, or I have little influence on their lives."*

Even God-fearing Dads makes mistakes. We know our Dads weren't perfect and we know we aren't perfect Dads either. We all have weaknesses and sins that we struggle with. Dads don't always get to church and listen to God's Word or lead by example. Does God forgive us for our refusal to listen and lead? He certainly does.

All is not lost, because we have a perfect Father. He made us. And when we rebelled against him, he parted ways with his own perfect Son for us, so he could adopt us back into his family.

Remember, your prayers have great power, do what you can and whatever you do: make sure your kids know their Heavenly Father, and his Son Jesus, and the Spirit who makes them known to them.