

# Sunrise Christian Church

June 2010 Family Newsletter

## Happy Father's Day, Dads!



“Any man can be a father, but it takes a special person to be a dad”

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**As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him (Ps 103:13).**

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“Good fathers make good sons”

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### **Child Father Relationship - Strong Family Bonds Are Important**

By Wendy Pan

The child father relationship is one that has been receiving progressively more attention over the last few decades. While traditional wisdom and research studies focused on mother child relationships as the most important, the recent research suggests the relationship between fathers and their children is significantly more important than previously believed.

The father to child relationship is one that is fundamentally important to the developmental progress of a child. The impact that a father has on a child begins while the child is still a baby. The play that a father engages in, which tends to be more physical and spontaneous, contributes to healthy brain development in infants.

By the time infants grow into small children, the role of play that a father engages in with the child takes on broader meaning and value. At this stage, the play takes on the role of teaching children problem solving, exploring limits, and goal oriented behavior. This is also a stage when fathers begin to help children learn to limit emotional outbursts and develop empathy through emotional involvement and modeling the appropriate behaviors.

Fathers have a profound impact on their school age children. At this stage, fathers help their children to learn to assume responsibility, encourage taking on challenges, and help to direct moral development. The father may wield more power to help or hinder their child at this point of development than any other.

The child father relationship changes during adolescence. The role of the father at this point

is more passive than in previous times during the aging process of their children. Rather than engaging in teaching roles, or encouraging skill development, the father takes on a more advisory role. His task, as it were, is to be more an adviser and friend. The child will be more focused on the mother child relationship but still seek out the father for advice or reassurance about decision making, advice about managing personalities in their lives, and for simple time spent together.

The absence of a father can be a profound problem. In the lives of children who had absent fathers they tend to be more prone to be unable to form healthy, emotionally intimate relationships with their peers. There is significantly greater risk of drug abuse, smoking, alcohol abuse and other risk-seeking behaviors. There also tends to be problems managing social situations requiring empathy. Over their educational careers, children with poor or non-existent relationships with their fathers tended to have worse academic achievement than their peers with positive relationships with their fathers.

The effects of the child father relationship reaches far into adulthood. Those with positive relationships with their fathers tend to be more likely to be in intimate relationships and have fewer problems developing healthy, physically intimate relationships. Those with poor relationships with their fathers tend to be less likely to be involved in relationships, have more difficulty maintaining them, and demonstrate significantly more trouble in adapting to changing social circumstances.



**Don't you wish both life and kids came with printed instructions? Often we dads have problems with our relationship with our children, so here's some good advice about friendships that also work in a father/child situation:**

## How to repair broken friendship bonds

The bonds of friendship, while strong, can be broken by careless action, deeds, words, etc. The truth is, we have probably all, at one time or another, said or done something that lead to the loss of a friend. Hopefully you learned from this and did not lose others to the same mistakes. However, this is not about that, it is about how to repair broken friendship bonds. It is possible to restore a friendship, but just like the restoration of anything worthwhile, it is going to take time, effort, and desire. So, try the following:

**Be the first to say sorry, even if you do not think it is your fault, you can be sorry about what the results were.** A sincere apology for the disillusionment of friendship is a must when it comes to repairing broken bonds. Usually, even if the bonds break due to time or distance, there is some fault to be had, and a good apology is going to do wonders for getting things back on track. So, take the blame for letting things go bad, or not keeping up the communication, or whatever it is that lead to the problem, or at least apologize for the outcome. Make sure you do

this in person. Be sincere. Know what you are apologizing for. An apology is the first step, but the apology does not solve anything without action.

**This leads to the next step. So, take action.** It is up to you to extend a friendly look, hand, etc. Put yourself out there a little and do something nice. If your friendship bonds were broken simply because of distance and time, then be the first to re-establish communication. Do not expect anything from them. Simply send an email, text them occasionally, and be willing to accept that they may not be interested in repairing the bonds, at least not initially. Many times people will want to see sincere intent and real effort before exerting any of their own. They will want to know that they are not wasting their time, or setting themselves up for failure by being your friend again. So, call them. Do the inviting. Remember their birthday, or significant dates in their life. Do whatever it takes to show them you are sincere about repairing the bonds. This is especially important if you did something to hurt the relationship, such as back stabbed, or stole a boyfriend or girlfriend, etc.

**Re-start communication. A huge part of every successful relationship is communication. So, to repair a broken friendship, re-start the communication.** Call just to talk. Email well wishes, check in, etc. You have to start talking again for starters, and crank it up from there.

**After some time, extend and invite. Occasionally the heart needs time to heal, and so keep in contact with someone, but do not rush things.** Let them see your sincerity, and your desire to be friends through consistent communication before you step it up a notch. Once you have shown consistency, start extending invitations. Go out in groups at first to help dispel awkwardness. Then do something casual, eventually you will be able to get back to

fun one on one, but it can take some time before you are comfortable doing this.

**Continue doing so until it is reciprocated or you are told to quit asking.** Things take time to heal. No matter how long it takes for them to accept an invitation, or extend an invite in return does not matter. You have to be the one who is vulnerable, who looks like an idiot if you want to repair a friendship bond. So, keep asking until they say to stop, or, (hopefully) accept.

## Will Jews go to heaven?

I recently was asked by someone important to me to pray for the health of a family member—someone important to them. The person being prayed for had converted from Christianity to Judaism and had been mentioned by another family member that there was concern as to the sick person's eternal salvation. So the question is: Will Jews go to heaven? (May I mention that in some circles this is a very hot topic?) No doubt this was a common question during the early days of the church when the church was mainly made up of Jews who had accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, yet there were many who had not. And, what of those who re-converted back to the old beliefs and way of life, what happens to them? We need to look closely at what God says in the Bible otherwise we simple are dealing with opinion and not fact. First, it was to the Jews that Jesus had come— they were as much the “lost sheep” as were the Gentles (that'd be us). In the opening verses of the gospel of John is written some of the saddest comments possible. “**He (Jesus) came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him**” (Jn. 1:11). The apostle Paul also addresses this issue in his letter to the church in Rome, “**What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteous-**

ness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? **Because they pursued it, not by faith, but as if it was by works.** They stumbled over the “stumbling stone” (Rom. 9:30-32). Then he goes on to say: “**For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge**” (Rom. 10:2). This is a shame because the very law they tried to uphold was meant to “lead” them to Christ (Gal. 3:24). Maybe this is why Jesus could tell Nicodemus (a Pharisee and therefore a person who tried to uphold all God’s Laws to the utmost degree!) that he must be “**born anew**” or “**born from above**” in order to enter the kingdom of God (i.e., heaven) (Jn. 3:3-5). Shortly before his arrest, trial, Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem and cried these words: “**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’**” (Matt. 23:37-39). Faith in Jesus as Christ, Savior and Lord is a must! For there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved! (Acts 4:12). So the moment we by faith in Christ die in the waters of baptism, we put off the old way of life and are clothed with Christ. So that, no longer is there Jew of Greek, slave or free, male or female, for now we are all one! (Gal. 3:27&28). Therefore, we may be Jewish by decent, but we must be Christian choice! And for those of you who wonder about what those the Jews who lived and died before the birth of Christ, read I Corinthians 10:1-5 and Heb. 3:14-4:2. (**Hint-**the gospel of Christ was not new!). And so, if we purposely turn our back on the only One

who can save us, then we purposely turn our back on any hope of salvation! Jesus said it this way: “**Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father in heaven**” (Matt. 10:32-33).



**Bookstore humor**

A woman stopped by our customer-service desk and asked me for a copy of the book that has Jesus in it. After much back-and-forth, I determined that what she wanted was the Bible!

Reader’s Digest, May, 2010

**WHAT’S YOUR IDENTITY?**

It’s popular now days to sport tattoos on legs, arms, and now even necks. These permanent skin markings have become some people’s identity. Other are into rap music; others into motorcycles- especially Harleys! For others it’s the “green movement” by which they find identity to who they are as a person, and to some extent they’re probably right!

For others, it’s their families through whom they find identity: “Mine came across on the May flower!” the shout. Others do so by the city or state in which they live: “I’m from Texas!” they say, or, “I’m a New Yorker!”

For others, it’s through sports teams that form their identity- Lakers, Dodgers, or the mile-high Broncos. But are these really the best way for them or us to find our identity, to find who we are?

The Bible has much to say about identity:

- 1) Through sin, we identify ourselves with Adam- the first to sin (Rom. 5:12).
- 2) Christ identified with mankind when he came from heaven to earth in the form of a man (Phil. 2:6-8).
- 3) Jesus identified himself with our sins (Rom. 5:7)
- 4) God also identified Christ with our sins (2 Cor. 5:21).
- 5) Christ died not for his sins, but ours! (Col. 1:21-22).
- 6) In baptism we willingly choose to identify ourselves with Christ and his work on the cross (Rom. 6:3-11).
- 7) When we do this, God identifies us as belonging to His family (Eph. 1:4-6).
- 8) And because we belong to God, He richly pours out His love upon us (Rom. 8:31-39).

**So now, what’s your identity?**

Though God does the lion’s share, He will not do what you and I can and should do! Therefore ask your self, have you identified yourself with Christ God’s way? Have you done what God has called you to do? We need to realize that it is only in this life time that we have a chance do this. So don’t delay! Hurry to the waters of baptism, the waters which represent the new creation God has in store for those who by faith are willing to meet Christ Jesus there!

Is this water regeneration? **No, absolutely not!** Instead this is simply being obedient to God and His word! It is the Holy Spirit who regenerates us- those who not only believe in Christ but have also identified themselves with him! So that just as he died, so too do we in the waters of baptism; and just as Jesus arose from the grave, so too do we when we rise out of the waters of baptism and into new life God has in store for us who believe in Christ Jesus!



*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you” (Isa. 43:2)*

In recent months, two items in have been handed me to share with you (sorry, I don't remember who gave them to me).

The first is said to be the thoughts of a 92 year old minister who summed up a lifetime of experiences this way:

**Jesus Loves Me**

Jesus loves me, this I know  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll goon through life, let  
    come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long,  
    In my heart He puts a son...  
    Telling me in words so clear,  
    “Have no fear, for I am near.”

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
    He will take me home above'  
    Then I'll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does He know?  
    Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
    That I love Him every day!

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The second given to me is how God uses even the weak, **so the next time you think God cannot use you, remember this:**

- Noah was a drunk
- Abraham was too old
- Isaac was a daydreamer
- Jacob was a liar
- Leah was ugly
- Joseph was abused
- Moses had a stutter
- Gideon was afraid
- Sampson was a womanizer
- Rahab was a prostitute
- Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- David had an affair and was a murderer
- Elijah was suicidal
- Isaiah preached naked
- Jonah ran from God
- Naomi was a widow
- John the Baptist ate bugs
- Peter denied Christ
- The Disciples slept instead of praying
- Martha worried about everything
- The Samaritan woman was divorced
- Zaccheus was too small
- Paul was too religious
- Timothy had an ulcer
- and Lazarus was dead!

**God continues to use the less-than-perfect for His kingdom building!**

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“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. John 6:37-39

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SCC's supported missions are:

- 1) **Boise Bible College-** they have sent a team of students and administrators and professors on a mission trip to Haiti this summer. Pray for the team.
- 2) **Cove Christian Camp-** their regular summer camping season will start June 13<sup>th</sup>. Pray that the kids are reached, taught, and strengthened.
- 3) **Overseas Outreach/** Rick Deighton- has just returned from another overseas trip. Pray for results there.
- 4) **Boise Retirement Village-** needs to raise \$200,000 to put in a new sewer system. This will allow them to add additional homes.
- 5) **Christian Children's Ranch-** have added eight new children since January. They continue to search for additional house parents. Pray that God will continue to supply their needs.
- 6) **Christian Motorcycle Association-** Les and Bev are seriously considering attending the CMA rally held in Arkansas in October. Pray for funds to be raised and for their travel safety.
- 7) **Love INC-** continues to have record number of requests from people with needs. At the same time they are trying to get a core group these people into financial management and parenting classes. Pray for their success.

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**Restoration church history-** Though the father and son team of Thomas and Alexander Campbell may have been the most widely known name in the Movement, they were not the only ones. Barton Stone, also previously with the

Presbyterian denomination, wrote this about unity: **“Let the unity of Christians be our polar star. To this let our eyes be continually turned; and to this let our united efforts be directed--that the world may believe, and be saved.”** Barton W. Stone, *The Christian Messenger*, 1832.