

Father's Day

Speakers: **John Rankin, Gary Meisner, Aaron Gross**

- **John Rankin's Message: What makes a good father?**
 - 3 words – “I Don't Know”
 - I can only tell you from experience what kinds of things will produce life and fruit in your family as a father.
 - I have 3 children.
 - Oldest girl was a challenge as a teen.
 - She set off on her own to discover herself and see what the world was like.
 - Then she returned and thanked me and her mother for protecting her and nurturing her and helping her realize that she had it best when she was under the covering her parents gave to her in the Lord.
 - 6 years after her was a boy.
 - He was just like me!
 - No more dresses (thank the Lord!)
 - I tried to be the best father ever to him, we did everything together.
 - One night he made me feel like I was the best father.
 - We were sitting in a boat, fishing, and he says “Dad, thank you for equipping me to become a man, and for being the best father. I work with people who hate their fathers, and I just need to thank you for always loving me. Those guys, I told them about our relationship, and now I'm able to witness to them.”
 - Then our youngest, one more boy!
 - He was different, not much like me at all!
 - He was sort of a nerd, liked computers and school, never lied, but he knew he wasn't like me and my other son.
 - My wife told me I need to spend time with him anyway to impart wisdom to him.
 - I asked him what he liked to do, and he said, “I want a computer, dad.” So, I bought him one. He loved it, but he became addicted to it. One time his mother told him to come eat and he snapped at her.

- I talked to him and realized that he had become too involved with that computer. I told him to take a break, and I was about to go on a missions trip and made him come with me (he hated it).
 - We started building a house and he helped me with everything. Every night we would preach the Word to the villagers, and he was exposed to things he would never have seen otherwise. He saw them praising the Lord, and he didn't understand because he had everything he ever wanted and didn't think he needed the Lord.
 - By the time he left he was born again! He then joined a youth group and became an active member of the mission field.
 - He got a scholarship and later became a pastor!
 - Was I a good father? I don't know... but he called me one day and told me about how he got a position as a full time missionary, and that he wanted to thank me for pushing him and making him know the Lord!
 - When you seek the Lord first, all these things will be added to you.
- Fathers, turn your hearts to your children.
- Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, ^[a]And when he is old he will not depart from it."

- **Aaron Gross' Message: What makes a good father? (from a child's perspective)**
 - A good father has unconditional love.
 - Whatever you do, good or bad, a good father will love you no matter what.
 - Correction – a good father will have discipline and will discipline, but it will be balanced.
 - Proverbs 22:6
 - Supportive – A good father will support their child's dreams and help them practice and study and be successful.
 - Being involved – A good father will always be there for their kids.
 - 90% of all homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes.
 - 85% of all children with behavior disorders come from fatherless homes.
 - 71% of all dropouts come from fatherless homes.
 - Just simply being there, even if you aren't perfect, can make a huge difference.
 - A good father will provide emotional and spiritual stability.
 - A good father will lead by example.

- Even in struggles they will turn to God and show their children how to serve the Lord.
 - A good father will be a leader in their house and in their community.
 - Doing what God says is right not what the world says is right.
 - A good father will be a helper through their kid's tough and confusing times in life.
 - A good father teaches their kids to appreciate their things.
 - A good father teaches their kids to be content with what they have.
 - A good father understands that their kids will not be just like them, but that they can be like the Lord.
 - God is all these things. He is the ultimate Father and the best example of what fathers should be like.
- **Gary Meisner's Message: Godly Fathers and Godly Children**
 - Even though there are millions of books on parenting, there's one book that you can turn to for anything you ever need – the Bible!
 - Proverbs 20:7 – “The righteous *man* walks in his integrity; His children *are* blessed after him.”
 - If we walk in integrity, then our children will be blessed, and who doesn't want that?
 - Integrity def: firm conviction to a code of especially moral values.
 - What you do speaks louder than what you say.
 - The earlier you can show your children that you mean business, getting them in church and enforcing the rules, the more likely they will stick to it when they get older.
 - Children need boundaries.
 - Strict means having boundaries, not being stifling and controlling.
 - Matthew 5:37 – “But let ^[a]your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”
 - Children need discipline.
 - Be consistent. If you promise a discipline or have a rule and it's broken, be consistent. Make it more about your disappointment than the discipline itself.
 - Children can be sensitive.
 - Protect their hearts – no matter what you do you are influencing them.
 - Children need the Godly foundation: let them know that no matter what or where, God is in control.
 - You don't have to be a biological father to love and empathize with your children.

- Surround yourself with pastors and spiritual leaders and your children will find and follow God.

- **Pastor Kevin Reich's Commentary:**
 - We may not always know what makes a good father, but if we just call on God, he won't leave us hanging. If we surround ourselves with people who love the Lord, then we will find out how to lead by example by seeing examples.
 - Ask the Lord for wisdom and He will give it to you.
 - When you get out of the way and let God take center stage, big things will happen in our sight.
 - Joshua 24:15 – “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of ^(b)the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
 - Choose who you will serve. You don't stumble across great faith and integrity, you make the choice. Choose to be a good father by following THE FATHER.

Happy Father's Day!