



Big Idea: Father's Day According To John

Pastor Brett Rush - Part 3

Honoring your father and your mother is one of God's "big 10." It was blazed into stone tablets by the finger of God. This was serious business for the people of God in the Old Testament, we see that disrespecting your father or mother was so serious that it resulted in stoning (Lev. 20:9). In the New Testament, we see Jesus show great honor and respect for God the Father—a relationship that is particularly brought out throughout the gospel of John. Dads have an important job description – to paint an accurate image of God the Father by the brush of their example. Dads have an irreplaceable role in the family. The foundation for your kids' emotional security and spiritual maturity is rooted in their experience of being your child. Now I don't want to ignore the elephant in the room. Some of you may not have had a good experience with your earthly father. If you had a poor example as a father, please hear this, there is a father to the fatherless who loves you more than you can fathom. Don't let the failure and imperfection of human beings cloud your understanding of a perfect heavenly father that has provided the once and for all sufficient sacrifice for sin, as to restore that relationship that was broken by sin. This week Pastor Brett unpacked 5 characteristics of our Father that should be reflected in us.

1. A Father Affirms His Children. (Matthew 3:16-17)
 - Spoken word/quality Time/lunch bag notes/surprise gifts/affection/attend to their heart/celebrate good decisions
2. A Father Works for His Children. (John 5:17)
 - Connect daily/create healthy habits/cook a meal and eat together/play/laugh together
3. A Father Loves His Children. (John 5:20; John 15:9)
 - Love their mom/love them unconditionally/grow up/be there/provide/discipline/value education/teach responsibility/model gratitude
4. A Father Models for His Children. (John 5:19)
 - Honor the golden rule/do what you say and mean what you do/be a "gentle-man/show you care
5. A Father Teaches His Children. (John 8:28)

Discussion Questions

- Of the 7 ideas for affirming your kids, which one is the hardest for you? which is the easiest?
- Pastor Brett shared how busyness is a modern-day curse. Discuss ideas on how to better manage the margin in your schedule.
- Love in the New Testament is not void of emotion. However, it transcends emotion and is marked by acts which promote the well-being of another. Is love an emotion or an action? Discuss this
- In what ways have we abdicated our responsibility to teach to the school, the coach, or the church?

Prayer Focus

Pray asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you have can be more effective in leading in your family and community. Ask God for direction on how to improve in those areas.

Next Steps

Write down ways you can step into roles of leadership at home, at work, and in your relationships.

Leader Tip

Acknowledge your spiritual fathers this week. Think about who God has put in your life to father you and thank them this week. If you can't think of who they are, begin looking for spiritual fathers that will pour into your life and pursue relationships with them. Then find some people in your life that you can be a father for and begin investing in them.