THE IDEA FOR CREATING A DAY for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father’s Day while listening to a Mother’s Day sermon in 1909. Having been raised by her father, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Her father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father’s Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day. Roses are the Father’s Day flowers: red to be worn for a living father and white if the father has died.

A GOOD FATHER IS ONE OF THE MOST UNSUNG, UNPRAISED, UNNOTICED, AND UNAPPRECIATED HEROES IN ALL HUMANITY.

A GODLY FATHER, EVEN MORE SO.

One time a little boy was asked to define Father’s Day and he said, “It's just like Mother’s Day, only you don’t spend as much on the present.”

Somehow, we went from FATHER KNOWS BEST and MY THREE SONS, via THE LUCIL;E BALL SHOW and the inept Ricky Ricardo, ALL IN THE FAMILY with Archie Bunker, to THE SIMPSONS and inept Homer, HOME IMPROVEMENTS, Tim the TOOL TIME TAYLOR, to today – 2.5 MEN and THE MODERN FAMILY.
The only place FATHERHOOD is championed is within the church and/or the “religious community.”

The greatest number of long distance phone calls are made on Mother’s Day; the largest number of collect calls are made on Father’s Day!

Just last year, 7 Billion $$$ more spent on Mother’s Day than Father’s Day

JOSHUA
At the age of 110, he summoned the leaders of Israel to Shechem for a farewell address. He charged them to obey the Lord who had fought for them and given them an inheritance. He warned them of the danger of apostasy, saying, “Choose you this day whom you will serve….”

As Joshua spoke, he did so with authority of experience:
   Spied out the land
   Moses for 40 years
   led Israel into the conquest of Canaan for another 25 years.

He reinforced his appeal with the POWER of a GOOD EXAMPLE. “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

I. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

It is the father’s duty to be the spiritual lead in the home and to walk in the ways of the Lord.

The greatest thing a father can pass on to his children is the love of God. We all know that love begets love.
Joshua 22:5
5 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Joshua 23:11-14
11 Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God.
12 Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations — these that remain among you — and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, 13 know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.
14 "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.
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 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."
16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did
those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God."

STORY: I read the story of a little boy, frightened by lightning and thunder, who called out one dark night, "Daddy, come. I’m scared." "Son," the father said, "God loves you and he’ll take care of you." "I know God loves me," the boy replied. "But right now I want somebody who has skin on."

Just this last week I read of a pastor whose young son had become very ill. After the boy had undergone an exhaustive series of tests, the father was told the shocking news that his son had a terminal illness. The youngster had accepted Christ as his Savior, so the minister knew that death would usher him into Glory; but he wondered how to inform one in the bloom of youth that he soon would die. After earnestly seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart through the hospital ward to the boy’s bedside.

First he read a passage of Scripture and had a time of prayer with his dear child. Then he gently told him that the doctors could promise him only a few more days to live. "Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my boy?" asked his devout father. Blinking away a few tears, the little fellow said bravely, "No, not if He’s like you, Dad!"

II. THE SECOND QUALITY THAT JOSHUA POSSESSED IS THAT HE HAD A PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

Being priest of the family is not enough. The godly father must also have a plan for the spiritual life of his loved ones. Joshua said, “…we will serve the Lord.”
Psalms 101:1 THE MESSAGE
101 My theme song is God's love and justice, and I'm singing it right to you, God.

Psalms 101 New Living Translation
1 I will sing of your love and justice, Lord. I will praise you with songs.
2 I will be careful to live a blameless life—when will you come to help me? I will lead a life of integrity in my own home.
3 I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar. I hate all who deal crookedly; I will have nothing to do with them.
4 I will reject perverse ideas and stay away from every evil.
5 I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors. I will not endure conceit and pride.
6 I will search for faithful people to be my companions. Only those who are above reproach will be allowed to serve me.
7 I will not allow deceivers to serve in my house, and liars will not stay in my presence.
8 My daily task will be to ferret out the wicked and free the city of the Lord from their grip.

v.1 I will sing of your love and justice, Lord. I will praise you with songs.

PRINCIPAL #1. ACKNOWLEDGE THE LOVE AND JUSTICE OF GOD AND PRAISE HIM.

v.2 I will be careful to live a blameless life—when will you come to help me? I will lead a life of integrity in my own home.

PRINCIPAL #2. DEPEND UPON GOD FOR DAILY RIGHTEOUS LIVING. LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY.
v. 3a I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.

3. GUARD YOU EYES

“vile and vulgar” - without profit, worthlessness

v. 3b-c I hate all who deal crookedly; I will have nothing to do with them.

PRINCIPAL #4. CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS CAREFULLY AND ADVISE YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT FRIENDSHIPS

deal crookedly” - to swerve, to fall away

Psalms 101:3
I refuse to take a second look at corrupting people and degrading things... stay clear of contamination.
(THE MESSAGE)

v.4 I will reject perverse ideas and stay away from every evil.

PRINCIPAL #5 - GUARD YOUR MIND

“perverse ideas” twisted, distorted, crooked, perverse, perverted

“evil” bad, disagreeable

(THE MESSAGE)

4 The crooked in heart keep their distance; I refuse to shake hands with those who plan evil.

PRINCIPAL #6 – SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GODLY PEOPLE THAT CHALLENGE YOU
5 I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors. I will not endure conceit and pride.
6 I will search for faithful people to be my companions. Only those who are above reproach will be allowed to serve me.

Proverbs 8:13
13 . . . Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

Proverbs 13:10
10 Arrogant know-it-alls stir up discord, but wise men and women listen to each other's counsel.
(THE MESSAGE)

Psalms 101:6
6 But I have my eye on salt-of-the-earth people — they're the ones I want working with me; Men and women on the straight and narrow — these are the ones I want at my side.
(THE MESSAGE)

PRINCIPAL #7 – BE A PERSON OF HONESTY AND INTEGRITY AND DO NOT TOLERATE THE OPPOSITE

v.7 I will not allow deceivers to serve in my house, and liars will not stay in my presence.

PRINCIPAL #8 – MAKE A GODLY IMPACT ON YOUR WORLD

v.8 My daily task will be to ferret out the wicked and free the city of the Lord from their grip.
PRAYER FOR FATHERS

Mender of toys, leader of boys,
Changer of fuses, kisser of bruises,
Bless him, O Lord.

Mover of couches, soother of ouches,
Ponder of nails, teller of tales,
Reward him, O Lord.

Hanger of screens, counselor of teens,
Fixer of bikes, chastiser of tykes,
Help him, O Lord.

Raker of leaves, cleaner of eaves,
Dryer of dishes, fulfills of wishes,
Bless him, O Lord.

Joshua 24:15
But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 23:14
14 "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.

Two sociologists at Harvard University named Glick(?) identified the crucial factors in predicting future delinquency of children ages five and six. And then in their study tracked that for a number of years and they found to be 90 percent accurate. They could take a five-year-old, six-year-old kid, look at the factors in their life and with 90 percent accuracy predict future delinquency...future...we
don't use the word delinquency anymore, future anti-social behavior, anti-social conduct. And then they came back and presented four necessary factors to prevent delinquent anti-social disfunctional children.

Here are the four, these are Harvard sociologists.

One, **the father's discipline**, it must be firm, it must be fair and it must be consistent. Where you have a father doing discipline firmly, fairly and consistently, you work against the future disaster.

Second, **the mother's supervision**. That's the word...the mother's supervision. The mother knows where they are at all times and she knows what they are doing at all times, and she is in involved in their lives personally, continually supervising them. In her presence she controls them. And even when they're out of her presence she knows where they are and what they are doing and they know she knows.

The third factor they said to guarantee against a future disfunctional child is **the father and mother's demonstrated affection**...the father and mother's demonstrated affection. Where the father and the mother love each other and demonstrate that affection before the children, there is a healthy response. They feel secure. They feel there's a loving control of their world. They also feel good about marriage for themselves.

And the fourth, very simple, **the family's cohesiveness, time spent together**. Now is that very complicated? It took Harvard sociologists to figure that out that the father is in charge of the discipline, that the mother is there to supervise, that the two are to love each other and the family is to be together and that guarantees that you're not going to raise a delinquent. How hard is that? That's what the Bible says.

The husband is the head of the family. The mother obviously nourishes and cherishes her children. And they are to love each other, husband loving wife, wife loving husband, and they are to
do things together as a family. That's sobasic. But that's what makes healthy children.

Paul Meier M.D. said the key to right parent/child relationships can be summed up in these five things.

**One, love, parents loving each other and their children.**

**Two, discipline, setting a standard and making people live by that standard or pay the consequence.**

**Three, consistency.** Consistency is very very important. When you're dealing with a child it isn't important that you be perfect, no one expects that. It is important that you be consistent. Both parents need to stick together, use the same rules, consistently enforce. For the same thing another time, it needs to be consistent. You have love, discipline, consistency.

The fourth thing is example. In healthy families the parents never expect children to live up to a standard they themselves do not keep.

And the fifth thing, said the doctor, love, discipline, consistency, example, the fifth thing that makes a healthy child is a man at the head of the home. God never intended a home without a man.
The destiny of every human being depends on his relationship to Jesus Christ. It is not on his relationship to life, or to his service or his usefulness, but simply and solely on his relationship to Jesus Christ.

— A. W. Tozer