

# Pastor's Pen

**Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!** Psalm 127:4-5

Wanted to say happy Father's Day to all of you who are fathers. Christian fathers are commanded throughout scripture of their responsibilities. Here are ten:

- 1) Be your child's "First Teacher" (Proverbs 22:6). It's our responsibility to "train up a child in the way he/she should go." Not the school, not the government, but you—and that means dad.
- 2) Dads need to exemplify a good life (2 Cor. 3:2-3). Scripture teaches that who we are and how we live is like a "letter from God." Our kids read that letter, every day.
- 3) Provide for your family (1 Tim. 5:8). For those of you struggling to find work, don't get down on yourself. This idea is more about your heart and desire. Being a father who provides covers more than rent and food. As dads, it's our responsibility to make sure our family's needs are addressed across the board. Be encouraged and look for ways to give to your family even when it is hard to financially.
- 4) Good dads discipline their children (Proverbs 13: 24). The one who loves their children, Scripture says, "is careful to discipline them." This is also about proactive leadership in our homes.
- 5) Dads spend time with their children, and it's not empty time (Deut. 6: 6-9). The Scriptures are clear that dads must engage their children in the kind of deep, heart-to-heart conversations that impart more than facts, but teach wisdom. Schedule some regular "conversational walks" with your children, one on one. Family time that counts.
- 6) Compassion is a "dad" characteristic. A father has compassion for his children. Psalm 103:13 points out, "so the LORD has compassion."
- 7) "Put your money where your mouth is". Well, not in those exact words. But James 1:22 instructs us to not only be "hearers" of God's word but "doers" also.
- 8) Don't provoke your children (Ephesians 6:4). The alternative, the Scripture suggests, is to raise them to be young people of faith.
- 9) Dads never give up on their kids. The story of "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:20-24) is the story of a father who never gives up hope and is ready to receive his child back with open arms. We can discipline, we can hold accountable, but we must never give up.

- 10) Dads pray for their children (1 Chronicles 29:19). King David prayed for his son, Solomon. Children who know without any doubt that their dads pray for them every day own a deep sense of love and security.

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

-From John MacArthur

Ten ways to provoke your children to wrath.

Number one, by overprotection. Fence them in, never trust them. Don't give them the opportunity to develop independence. Overprotection frustrates and angers a child. We live in a world where that's a tendency among Christians. Keep them under your control all the time. You have to be very careful about that or they become exasperated.

Secondly, you can do it by favoritism. Isaac favored Esau over Jacob. Rebekah favored Jacob over Esau. And the sad results are well-known. Don't compare them against each other; they're each unique. Love them the same without regard for each, without special regard for each, no respect of persons.

Thirdly, you can cause a child to become angry by setting unrealistic achievement goals. Some parents literally crush their children with pressure, pressure to excel in school, pressure to excel in sports, in music, in any activity they do. This becomes very frustrating when the child has no sense of having reached a goal, no sense of having fulfilled an expectation.

### Quote of the Week

"A father's holy life is a rich legacy for his sons."  
-Charles Spurgeon

Fourth, You can frustrate your child to anger by over-indulgence, by giving them everything they want, by picking up after them always, by allowing them to throw all responsibility and accountability on others. You can exasperate them by letting them sin and get away with it so they learn to do that successfully.

Fifthly, you can exasperate your child by discouragement. Understand what they're trying to accomplish understand why a certain thing happened, why a certain behavior occurred, why a certain incident went a certain way. Grant them a listening ear and an understanding heart and reward them graciously and generously with love. Give them approval and honor and be patient with them or they get very defeated and discouraged. And that turns to anger.

Sixth, You can provoke your children to anger by failing to sacrifice for them. In other words, by making the child feel like he's constantly an intrusion into your life, constantly an interruption, always a bother.

Seventh, you can provoke your children to anger by failing to allow for some growing up. Let them goof up a little. Let them make mistakes. So they knock something over at the table, laugh it off. Give them a little job and if they do it in an unacceptable way but it's a little bit of progress, commend them. And don't condemn them. Just expect progress not perfection.

Eighth, you can provoke your children to anger by neglect. And the worst kind of neglect? Lack of consistent discipline. That's the worst kind of neglect. I'm not talking about the neglect of time and things; I'm talking about the neglect of discipline. Teach them; discipline them, consistently using the rod in love.

Number nine, you can provoke your children to anger by abusive words. A barrage of well-chosen words from your adult vocabulary can cut that little heart to shreds. And what is as devastating as anything are words of anger, words of sarcasm, or words of ridicule.

And then lastly, by physical abuse. An angry child is often a beaten, abused, over-zealously punished child, usually from an angry, vengeful parent who only cares that he has been inconvenienced or irritated, not that the child needs correction for his own good.



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
Women of Grace | 9AM



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
every other week @ Brown's  
Other groups off for the summer



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address on the back of this bulletin.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study & Surge!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM  
Sunday School 9:30AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 06/11/2023

General Offering .....10159.74  
Building Fund .....2,941.00  
Uganda Trip ..... 55.00

Total.....\$13,155.74  
Attendance ..... 249  
Online.....21

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

June 18, 2023

Welcome

