

It is rare that I allow a Hallmark holiday to have an impact on what I'm preaching. But this week I have spent a lot of time being a well pleased father and the Lord's has used that to direct this week's message.

Now typically, on Father's Day we turn to passages such as: Eph. 5:25 or Col. 3:19 (Husbands love your wives), Eph. 6:4 or Col. 3:21 (Father's don't exasperate). But to do so is to preach to only the males in the audience. So, this morning, we are going to look at things from a different angle.

As a father, I desire that my children bring me joy. While that may sound selfish, it's actually biblical. The Bible teaches us that well behaved, obedient children bring their parents joy and please the Lord as well. Unfortunately, many parents seek joy from their children by living vicariously through them. Please, understand that's not what I'm talking about.

Allow me to explain by giving you some examples from my week as a father.

Last Saturday, Gabby was approached by a college coach who is interested in her coming to play ball for her. It brought me joy to know that her hard work was paying off. But I also took great joy in the fact that she was upset when one of her teammates was cruel to another teammate. Monday, Haddon received several awards at school and Mikayla also received academic achievement honors on Friday. These things brought me joy because of the testimony that they provide. I can take very little credit. God has blessed my children (and me through them) despite me not because of me.

I can remember telling my father that the words I longed to hear most from him were, "I'm well pleased." Those are the same words I long to hear from my heavenly Father. And I believe they are the words that you want to hear from God. So, this Father's Day, instead of looking at what makes a good father we are going to look at the example Jesus set for us in being a good child of the Father.

Scripture: John 5:30

I. Jesus: The Good Son

A. **Reliance upon the Father**

1. Strength/Power

- a) The Christian life is not for the faint
- b) We must rely upon the Father for the strength and power necessary to persevere and push on
 - (1) The Father has given us the Holy Spirit

2. Authority

- a) The Christian life is not based upon human authority
- b) We must rely upon the Father's authority

- (1) Moral
 - (2) Spiritual warfare
 - (3) Prayer
 - (4) Government
3. Sustenance
- a) The Christian life does not exist or prosper upon man's efforts
 - b) We must rely upon the Father's provision
 - (1) Physical
 - (2) Spiritual
- B. Righteous like the Father**
1. Holiness
- a) The Christian life includes a call to holiness
 - b) We must be holy as our Father is holy
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:16
 - c) The Father has provided instruction (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - d) The Father has provided an example (1 Peter 2:21)
- C. Relentlessly Pursuing the Will of the Father**
1. Glorify the Father
- a) Praise the Father
 - b) Proclaim the Son
 - c) Persist in the Spirit
2. Serve the Father
- a) By serving others
 - (1) Christians
 - (2) Non-Christians

When we dismiss from here in a few minutes we will head to our homes. Tomorrow we will enter our places of employment. Throughout the week we will come in contact with our community. Let us use our time of invitation to dedicate ourselves to being good children of God. Let us commit to bringing him joy in all that we say and do.