

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

June 2023

The Apostle Paul as a Father

Good earthly fathers understand that raising children is more than passing along instruction and knowledge. A good father takes his responsibility very seriously and honors God by encouraging, comforting, teaching, and protecting their children entrusted to his care.

Likewise, our heavenly Father lovingly placed Paul in the Body of Christ as “spiritual father” according to the gospel of Jesus Christ. For example, Paul taught believers by love, grace, and gentleness, as fathers are taught to deal with their children:

Ephesians 6:4: “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 2:7: “But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:”

Paul, instructed by God the Father, lovingly communicated that which was given to him, by the Son: 1 Timothy 1:2: “Unto Timothy, *my own son in the faith:* Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from

God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Paul spoke to “children” in an age appropriate manner according to their maturity:

1 Corinthians 3:1: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even as* unto babes in Christ.”

1 Corinthians 14:20: “Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.”

2 Corinthians 12:14: “Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”

Just as believers are to read the Word of God to grow and strengthen their faith, repetition is necessary for children - Galatians 4:19, “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,”

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday Messages available on website:
www.avalongracechurch.com)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

**“And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**
- Ephesians 3:9

The Apostle Paul as a Father (Continued from Page 1)

Children need to be warned of the dangers of being “of the world”:

Ephesians 4:14, “That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

It is doubtful we would have any of Paul’s epistles if it were not for his heart as a father. They were written as letters from our heavenly Father to His children, through Paul, our apostle. By reading them we become the recipients of the same exhortation, comfort, and charge that Paul was giving his children in the faith. Paul was a living example of the grace given to him, for us to understand the grace given to us, as children of God awaiting our adoption (Ephesians 1:5) into our heavenly family.

How thankful we are to God for His Word through the Lord Jesus Christ who first gave His glorious and unmerited grace to Paul in this dispensation so our apostle could communicate God’s grace given freely to us:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship; created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

On behalf of Janet and my family, we wish you a very Blessed Father’s day!

Pastor Phil

QUOTES FOR THE WISE & YOUNG AT HEART:

“There should be a children’s song ‘If you’re happy and you know it, keep it to yourself and let your dad sleep.’” - Jim Gaffigan

“One night a father overheard his son pray: Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is. Later that night, the Father prayed, Dear God, Make me the kind of man my son wants me to be.” Unknown

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.” Psalm 103:13

“These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war.” -- President Ronald Reagan

“Train up a child in the way he should go – but be sure you go that way yourself.” -- Charles Spurgeon

Cheers for the sailors that fought on the wave for it,
Cheers for the soldiers that always were brave for it,
Tears for the men that went down to the grave for it,
Here comes the flag! ~Arthur Macy, The Flag

When we were . . . (Anonymous)

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 4 years old: | My Daddy can do anything! |
| 7 years old: | My Dad knows a lot...a whole lot. |
| 8 years old: | My father does not know quite everything. |
| 12 years old: | Oh well, Father does not know that either. |
| 14 years old: | Oh, Father? He is hopelessly old-fashioned. |
| 21 years old: | Oh, that man-he is out of date! |
| 25 years old: | He knows a little bit about it, but not much. |
| 30 years old: | I must find out what Dad thinks about it. |
| 35 years old: | Before we decide, we will get Dad's idea first. |
| 50 years old: | What would Dad have thought about that? |
| 60 years old: | My Dad knew literally everything! |
| 65 years old: | I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more. |



June Reflections . . .

So God Made a Father

by May Patterson—2019

And God looked down on all He had made and said,
“I need a caretaker.”

So, God made a father.

God said, “I need someone to take children fishing and play catch in the backyard. It must be someone who is tough enough to wield a chainsaw and yet, gentle enough to join his little girl and her stuffed animals for tea.



I need someone to bring the car around when it's raining,

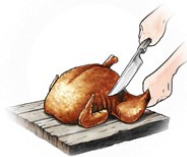
so everyone else can stay dry. Someone who will keep jumper cables in his truck, just in case. I need someone to notice practical things like how the tread on the tires is wearing and if the weather stripping around the front door needs replacing, for no one else will.

Yes, he will struggle to find his socks and keys, but I'll help him find time for the important things; like tumbling with the kids in the den floor, or saying, 'I'm proud of you son,' or giving Mama a hug.

I need someone to provide for the family. Someone who will get up early and stay up late and never complain. I need someone who's willing to make unpopular decisions and stand by them. Someone to provide authority and discipline, as well as love.

I need someone who listens more than he talks. Who will stand by his family through laughter and tears, tornadoes and hurricanes, good times and bad. Someone who will love his kids and love their mother even more.

I need someone who is willing to carve the Thanksgiving turkey, for no one else seems to want the job. I need someone who is not afraid to go into Grandma's dark cellar, or to check on what goes bump in the night, or to remove the dead mouse from the mousetrap.



I need someone with broad shoulders, broad enough to carry a little child around town and broad enough to pull more than his fair share.

I need someone strong enough to open the tight seal of a jelly jar. Someone who is tall enough to put the angel on top of the Christmas tree. And yet, I need someone who is gracious enough to let his son fish the best fishing hole or to let his daughter win at least one hand of rummy.



Yes, I need someone who is willing to work the second-shift, or take second-best, or play second fiddles, so that his family can have it better than he did.

I need someone who is willing to man up and provide the love, support, and strength his family will always need.”

So, God made a father.



FOLLOWING FATHER'S EXAMPLE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

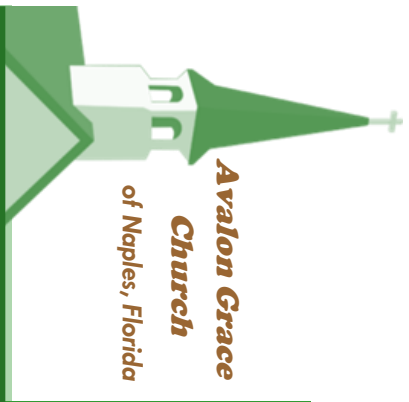


Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. EPHESIANS 5:1-2 KJV

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“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” - Ephesians 6:1-3 KJV



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT



- 6th David Marshall
- 8th Sabrina McClellan
- 8th Samuel McClellan
- 10th John O'Neill
- 16th Michelle Sims
- 30th Janet McClellan

COMING IN JULY
2nd 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

4th Independence Day!



1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9:45 Sunday Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School



1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School



1 8 9 10 11 12 13 14



10:30 AM Sunday Worship
The LORD's Supper Observed
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School



2 5 6 7 8 9 10

10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School