



Father's Day Charge

THIS FATHER'S DAY, June 18th, 2023, I accept the charge as a *faithful father* to move forward with a renewed mind, grounded in scripture and the three tenants of Faithful Fathering. I will:

- 1. Prioritize my physical presence** in the home and with family. *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning ... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.'* John 1:1-2, 14. Just as God thought it important for His Son to be physically present in this world, the charge for an earthly father to emulate the Heavenly Father by embracing the importance of physical presence in family.
- 2. Be engaged emotionally** with my wife and kids. *'If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth.'* – John 14:15-17. Jesus anticipated emotional distractions long before cable television channels, streaming services, cell phones, texting, video games and 24/7-news cycles, not to mention personal frustrations and discouragement. In the power of the resurrected Christ and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the charge is to rebuke distractions and engage emotionally in family.
- 3. Lead spiritually by example.** *'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.'* – Romans 12:2. Paul warns of the world's seduction to conformance, the path of least resistance. The charge is to lead spiritually by standing firm against worldly influences. Do not conform to cultural pressure but be transformed by time in scripture, prayer and spiritual discussions in the home between Sundays.

As a *faithful father*, I accept the charge to:

- **prioritize my physical presence in family by** _____
(Putting kids' activities on my calendar; getting home from work at a consistent time; communicating potential conflicts ahead of time)
- **work at being more engaged emotionally by** _____
(Committing to eat dinner together as a family 5X per week; spending regular one-on-one time with my wife and each child)
- **lead spiritually by example by** _____
(Spending personal time in prayer & scripture daily; leading the way to church; leading spiritual discussions around current events; leading regular family devotion time)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witnesses: _____

Prayer guide: Lord, thank You for the many gifts and blessings in my life, may I never take them for granted. Thank You for the opportunity to reflect You in my home, specifically Your triune nature as a *faithful father* – to be present physically, engaged emotionally and lead spiritually. Strengthen me to accept responsibility for the opportunity You offer as I accept the charge to be a *faithful father* – to be the father You call me to be, the father my family needs. Amen.

Honor Your Father: 3-Point Challenge

The Lord said, “Honor your father and your mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise – “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” (Ephesians 6:2-3). This has been referred to as the “forgotten commandment” perhaps because Jesus summed up the 10 commandments into two – “Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. ... Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37,39). But Jesus walked the fifth commandment, honoring His Father every step of His journey on this earth “so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13). The commandment with a promise is not to be forgotten. It not only provides the bridge between the first four commands to the last five, it provides the bridge between the spiritual relationship with God to the physical relationships with others and the bridge for faith to be passed from one generation through dad and mom to the next. There is a generational connection, even generational healing as father and mother are honored.

The mission should you choose to accept it:

- **Make time to meet** with your father. Do something he enjoys but make sure the time incorporates discussion around what life experiences shaped him as a father and the challenges he faced “being Dad” when you were a kid. (*If your dad has passed or is not accessible, meet with another man in the church close to the age of your father or a younger dad that could be a son and have the same generational discussion.*)
 - Take a picture of the two of you; and/or
 - Record a short video testimony of what the exchange meant to you
- **Write a letter** of thanks to your dad citing a specific experience or two growing up. It can be as simple as a “Thanks for bringing me into this world” or as comprehensive as a tribute to your dad that acknowledges time committed through your childhood years and the support provided. If you are convicted of taking him for granted or of passing judgment on him due to perceived shortfalls acknowledge that, confess and ask for forgiveness. Keep the focus on honoring your father with full respect for the life journey that shaped his perspective on fathering. Present the letter to your dad and read it to him. (*If your dad has passed or is not accessible, read the letter to your kids and include a story about your dad.*)
 - Share an excerpt from the letter with another man or group of men in the church;
 - Compile excerpts from others to share with the church
- **Commit to grow** as a father – be a study of the Father and of fathering. Seek out resources and training opportunities that will encourage & equip you as a father. Commit to completing one study for dads across the summer. One easy and accessible option is the *Dads Becoming Heroes* study that can be completed on your own or in a small group. This study can be downloaded as a .pdf file from <https://faithfulfathering.org/for-dads>. Take the initiative to **Honor Your Father** through intentional study to become the father God calls you to be, the father the next generation needs.
 - Take a picture of you doing the study on your own, with a buddy or in a group;
 - Record a short video testimony of how the study impacted you; and
 - Record a short video with testimony from your family on how the study influenced your fathering from their perspective.

Accept this challenge to **Honor Your Father** and begin a journey that will be demanding and affirming, convicting and encouraging. In the process, you will be equipped and strengthened to become the *faithful father* you are called to be, the father the next generation needs. Prayers are with you on the journey,