

Effective Fathers

1 Thessalonians 2:6b-12

*“A Christian balanced discipline is never mechanical,
it is always living, it is always personal,
and above all it is highly intelligent.
It knows what it is doing and it is never guilty of excess.”*

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

Effective fathers must display...

I. A heart of _____

A. A _____ bearing

B. A _____ disposition

II. A genuine _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

III. A predominant _____

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**For you know how,
like a father with
his children, we exhorted each
one of you and encouraged
you and charged you to
walk in a manner worthy of God . . .**

I Thessalonians 2:11-12



Grace Baptist Church
777 West North Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

June 18, 2017

Grace Baptist Church

Elders: Aaron Beardmore, Phil Garman, Tom Richwine
Reed Rusniak, Mike Van Grouw, Brad Wenger
Visitation Assistant: Clyde Smith
Sunday, June 18, 2017, 6:00 PM

Piano Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship · Psalm 46:8-11 · PEW BIBLE, p. 472

Hymn #627 · *Happy the Home When God is There*

Prayer

Scripture Reading · I Thessalonians 2:1-12 · PEW BIBLE, p. 986

Hymn #301 · *My People Give Ear*

Offering

Prayer

Sermon · *Effective Fathers*

Craig Harris · I Thessalonians 2:6b-12 · PEW BIBLE, p. 986

Hymn #293 · *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

This Lord's Day evening, Craig Harris is our guest speaker. Craig is the pastor of Grace Baptist Church of Chambersburg. He served as both an assistant and associate pastor here at Grace. He and his wife, Susanne, have two adult daughters.

NEW PASTOR

We thank the Lord that John Miller of Clarksville, TN, has accepted our church's call to be our pastor. We anticipate John and his family will relocate to Carlisle in July. In the meantime, church elders and guest preachers will be opening God's Word. If you'd like more information about the church, please speak with any of the elders.

It is often observed, and rightly so, that quality time cannot substitute for quantity time. So what kinds of quantity time must fathers spend with their children?

First is the father's ministry of God's Word. There simply is no substitute for our children hearing the Word of God read from our lips, with its doctrines explained clearly so they can understand, and the message applied to their hearts. (This is not to denigrate a mother's equally important ministry of Scripture.)

It is not sufficient for fathers to send their children to church, Sunday school, Christian camp, or private Christian school. You must read the Bible to your children yourself. Obviously, our children must see some correspondence between the Bible and our lives. But even as we work out our own Christian growth, we must read God's Word to and with our children.

God's Word is "living and active" (Heb. 4:12). It gives life to believing hearts (Isa. 55:10-11) and imparts light to the eyes and wisdom to the inner man (Ps. 19:7-9). Holy Scripture should form a regular part of our conversation, so that families are not merely reading the Bible as some kind of ritual but studying and discussing together its life-giving teaching.

If we cannot make time to read the Bible together as a family, we should seriously reflect on our priorities. Most Christians today did not grow up in homes that practiced family devotions, but it is imperative that we revive this practice of family piety. We do not have to be elaborate, as if someone from church will be grading us. The family can simply gather for a reading of God's Word or a good devotional book with scriptural teaching, followed by discussion and prayer. (It is even better if the family can sing together.)

For some families, this time happens most naturally at breakfast, and in other families during or after dinner. A more prolonged gathering for family worship might occur once a week or so, but briefer devotions should occur more or less daily. The father does not have to be a Bible scholar, but he must read and teach Scripture to his children. As he does so in faith, God's Word will bind the hearts of fathers and children together in the unity of truth.

Richard Phillips
The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men