



Each year – on the third Sunday in June – our country celebrates Father’s Day, a day set aside to celebrate the father and father-figures in our lives. From a personal perspective, one that has evolved from that of a child often sharing a birthday with the holiday to an adult with a son of my own, I have always had a particular affinity for Father’s Day.

Reflecting on this, I am reminded of a simple sentiment my dad would often voice – he wanted me to be better off than himself – I think this pithy expression is both equally true and decidedly unique in its practical meaning for many parents. For my father, who grew up needing to put cardboard in his shoes when the bottoms wore through and with just enough means to have butter sandwiches for lunch each day, his conception of what accomplishing this might mean likely altered greatly from his youth to parenthood. Even as he attained the highest levels of success in his field, his humble upbringing held fast and is manifested in how he carries himself, interacts with others, and treats his three children. As Scripture consistently teaches us, raising children the

right way – in the way of the Lord – is a virtue with the potency to yield positive benefits for years to come.

For this Father's Day, I am especially appreciative of the sacrifices I know my dad made to give me the best lot in life he could, emboldened in my conviction to do the same for my son and soon-to-join-us daughter, and thankful our three generations will have the opportunity to celebrate the holiday together.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7, NKJV).

"Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, NKJV).

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