

Pastor's Pen

Fathers Day!

***"As a father has compassion on his children, So Yahweh has compassion on those who fear Him."* (Psalm 103:13)**

Happy Father's Day to all you dads. On Father's Day, we give thanks for the men God has placed in our lives as fathers, grandfathers, spiritual mentors, and father figures. While no earthly father is perfect, God in His mercy has given us a powerful image in fatherhood to reflect something of His own heart.

I became a father at age 25 and had no clue what that role really involved. I remember when we took Crystal home from the hospital, we were driving up Chippenham Parkway, and Kathy started to cry. I asked her what was wrong, and she said, "I don't know if I'm going to be a good mom. I don't know what to do." At that moment, I began to panic. Because I thought all women knew how to be a mom and how to take care of a baby, and instinctively knew what to do. Cathy was a great mother and raised our children in fear and admonition of the Lord.

As I look back, I see my many failures as a father, but God, in His mercy, has overcome those failures in me so that my children can become the people they are today. Let me encourage you, fathers, to teach your children all about the love and mercy of God. Teach them about Jesus Christ and the death He died to make you His. You see, you are called not only to provide and protect but to nurture faith, instruct in the Lord, and model grace. Let them see you love your wife as Christ loved the church. Let them see godly humility. Let them see you say you're sorry when you have sinned. Let them know you love them even when you discipline them. Grace covers our failings, and God's Spirit equips us to grow. Children are watching, and more than anything, they need to see Christ in us.

In a world where the role of fathers is often undervalued or misunderstood, Christian fathers are invited to reclaim a vision of loving leadership rooted in Christ. Through daily repentance, prayer, and reliance on the Spirit, fathers can leave a legacy of faith.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

A Word to Fathers

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

-Ephesians 6:4

In Roman society, a father's power was all-prevailing. As William Barclay wrote, "A Roman father had absolute power over his family ... He could bind or beat his son; he could sell him into slavery; and he even had the right to execute him ... If ever a people knew what parental discipline was, the Romans did."

Notice, then, that here Paul is not simply calling for the exercise of parental authority. Rather, he is both assuming its rightfulness and tempering it. His instruction is first negative: ***"Do not provoke your children to anger."*** He urges fathers to exercise restraint in disciplining their children, lest they do more harm than good by exasperating them or causing them to become discouraged, resentful, or angry.

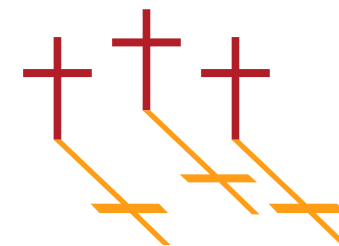
How might we provoke our children to anger? Through selfishness, severity, inconsistency, unreasonableness, favoritism, nagging, fault-finding, failure to appreciate progress... Yet such a daunting list shouldn't discourage us; instead, it should remind us that this responsibility is entirely beyond us apart from God's grace.

And yet Paul's instruction is not only negative but also positive. The verb "bring them up" can also mean "nourish." There is something horticultural about it—a reminder not only that we are to rear our children tenderly but also that doing so is no momentary task; rather, it's a journey over many years. At the same time, this nourishment involves "discipline"—namely, the discipline of Scripture, by which the father himself is conformed to the image of Christ—and "instruction," which involves gently bringing God's word to bear upon our children's minds so that their character is actually transformed.

If you are a parent, how can you accomplish such a task? It takes grace. It also takes patience. In stock-market terms, parenthood is not day trading; it's long-term investing. It's amazing how a monstrous four-year-old who is constantly treated with godly love and discipline can become a thoughtful and loving young adult by her late teens. So if you are not a parent, pray for those who are. They need it! And if you are a parent, consider your own approach. How are you establishing parental authority in the home? In what ways are you most in danger of provoking your children as you do so? How will you instruct your children in God's word, and how can you see your own character being formed into Christlikeness through the experience of parenthood? In all this, remember that parenting is an act of grace. We are to discharge our responsibilities faithfully. But you will be crushed if you do not remember that grace is sufficient to overcome any and every mistake—a truth to build you up and keep you on your knees!

Quote of the Week

**"He who has Christ has all he needs
and needs no more."
-Jonathan Edwards**



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Family Groups

All Family Groups on hiatus until September

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 06/08/2025

General Offering	\$5,474.11
Building Fund	\$1,005.50
Uganda	\$240.00
Benevolence	\$100.00

Total.....\$6,819.61
Attendance..... 200

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

June 15, 2025

Welcome