

Valley Views



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Pastor Mike Hill

What Does it Mean to Be a Christian Father? WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY SAYS ABOUT CHRISTIAN FATHERS

LESLI WHITE

The Bible tells us, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). A Christian father's first and greatest responsibility is to acquaint his children with God through Scripture. One of the reasons this is so important is because what children learn about God will put them in good standing throughout their lives, no matter what they do and where they go.

God uses the Christian father as an instrument for instruction and discipline, in which God commands and administers. Ephesians 6:4 is a summary of instructions to fathers. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). A wise father seeks to make obedience desirable and attainable by love and gentleness. We know from history that the father was to be diligent in instructing children in the ways and words of the Lord for their own spiritual development and well-being. The father who was obedient to the commands of Scripture did just that. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." To "train" indicates that the first teaching that a father and mother give a child. This training is created in a way to make clear to children the life they are intended for, a life of great importance.

The truth is, it isn't easy to be a good father. However, there are a few principles that can help. Successful Christian fathers have found that he and his family benefits when he follows the wisdom found in the Bible. Here are five principles Christian fathers live by:

They Make Time for Their Family

A good Christian father makes time for his family and anchors his family in Christ. He provides the needs of his family. No other teacher can affect a child as much as their parents. For this reason, it's important that fathers teach their children both by their example and their words. A Christian father not only meets the physical needs of his family, but also the emotional needs of his family as well. The family turns to him as a support in all areas of need and he provides as best he can.

They Love and Respect Their Wives

A Christian father loves and respects his wife. He serves as an example to his children of what a loving relationship looks like so that they may also reflect it in their lives, particularly when it comes to their marriages. When a man enters into a covenant relationship with his bride, he commits to the responsibilities of loving, honoring and cherishing her. The strength a Christian husband needs in order to carry out these responsibilities flows out of his relationship with God. This requires dependence on God's Spirit. The beautiful thing is we have the assurance that "nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). A Christian father should ask God to empower him so that they can give their children not just an inheritance, but a heritage. They ultimately give their wife what she needs most – to be loved, honored and cherished.

They Give Loving Discipline and Commendation

The Bible tells us, "You fathers, do not be exasperating your children, so that they do not become downhearted" (Colossians 3:21). A Christian father doesn't just discipline. He disciplines lovingly and commends his children in the process. No matter how frustrated or angry he gets, he expresses loving concern for the welfare of his children. This includes advice, correction, education and chastisement when needed. In addition, he recognizes that discipline is way more effective when a father commends his children regularly. This enriches a child's character as they will know when they are acknowledged and appreciated.

They Are Good Communicators

A Christian father should be a good communicator, not only communicating biblical principles to their children, but also being a careful listener. Instead of being a reaction waiting to happen, they have the ability to listen calmly without being judgmental. When a child knows their father will lose their temper quickly, they are less likely to communicate their inner feelings to him. But when they know their father listens calmly, they believe they are respected and that there is a genuine interest in what is being said. The Bible tells us, “Every man must be swift about hearing, slow about speaking, slow about wrath” (James 1:19). We know from Scripture that fathers who apply this biblical principle communicate better with their children.

They Apply God’s Practical Wisdom

A Christian father will apply God’s practical wisdom to their everyday life and guide their children in the same way. Deuteronomy 6:5-6 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.” Fathers who are in a committed relationship with God can guide their children in the greatest relationship they will ever have – an intimate relationship with their heavenly Father.

The greatest example of what a father should look like is God, Himself. The Bible reveals that there is only one perfect Father who is God. The pages of the New Testament give us an incredible glimpse of the marvelous relationship between God the Father and Christ the Son. On three separate occasions, the Bible records these words of the Father to His Son: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 17:5). This is the kind of relationship fathers should strive for with their children. There is no greater source than God, the greatest Father of all.



St. John's UMC,

Thank you for your April 9th gift of \$66 to Sojourner Truth Ministries. Your gift helps us to help others. Even though the pandemic necessarily changed the "how" of our ministries, because of folks like you we've been consistent in our aid. Also, we've been able to serve bagged meals to MANY MORE people in need.



Blessings,

Carrie

Volunteer



Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimsport church is Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. Please wear a mask when entering and leaving.



Please let Pastor Mike know of anyone from our parish graduating from High School or college or any other program of learning so we can recognize them on graduate recognition Sunday, June 13th during worship at each church.



St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, May 13th at 7:00.



VBS is Back! This years theme is Rocky Railway... Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through! It will be held Sunday, July 11th through Thursday, July 15th from 6 to 8:30. Meal provided! Rocky Railway VBS will allow God's love and purpose for each person to come to life like never before.... touching lives, changing hearts, and drawing kids and adults closer to the our God who created us! Anyone interested in helping or donating please contact Taryn Myers, Sharon Heintzelman, or Christa McCormick. Thank you!!!



There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, June 8th from 2-7 at the fellowship hall.



Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, June 14th at 6:30.



Various means to keep updated:

website: evpumc.org

Face book: Elimspport United Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimspport church

email Pastor Mike: hjebm@comcast.net

email church: elimspportumc@gmail.com

Call Pastor Mike: 570-547-1386

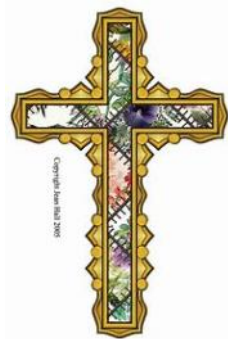
Text Pastor Mike: 570-974-8590 (please identify yourself when texting)

Be pro-active in getting the word out to others in the church.

St. John's will continue to worship each Sunday at 10:30 at the church building.

Please be sure to check the church website evpumc.org and Elimspport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.

Elimspport church will begin worshipping outdoors in the Pavilion on Sunday, June 6th at 9:00, weather pending. Please bring you own chair. If it is too cold or raining, we will simply move indoors for that day. If you come and forget a chair, we can provide one for you.



To our Church Families,

Thanks seems like such a small token of our appreciation for all your cards, thoughts and prayers. She was special but it was comforting to know so many others found her special also.

- Items for July's newsletter are due June **20th**.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by **Wednesday morning** each week.

(Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)

Roxy Berger's Family



Kid's Corner

Happy Father's Day!



ELIMSPORT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST PARISH

Worship Schedule:

Elimsport UMC

Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:30 am

St. John's UMC

Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Parish Youth Group

Check weekly Bulletin for current schedule and events
(at Elimsport)

Parish Bible Study

Varies according to the season.

Parish Office:

16145S. RT 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

Parsonage Phone:

(570) 547-1386

Pastor Mike's Cell:

(570) 974-8590

Parish Website:

www.evpumc.org

Parish email:

elimsportumc@gmail.com

www.evpumc.org



*He will turn the
hearts of the fathers
to their children, and
the hearts of the children
to their fathers.♥*

MALACHI 4:6

Our Mission Statement at Elimsport UMC



We gather together as a community of Christian believers to worship, fellowship, and to learn more about God. By the unity of the Spirit and the support of each other, we are able to reach out to the community and the world.

Our Mission Statement at St. John's UMC



The purpose of St. John's is to both evangelize and nurture. We are called to show God's love in our world by giving aid and by spreading the Good News of Christ. We in turn provide an atmosphere for nurturing where Biblical truths are shared enabling people to become spiritually enriched. By providing this, people will learn and through learning, become more effective witnesses.