

Fatherhood ... One of God's Ultimate Creations!

It's always intriguing to know the history of our various national holiday observances with "Father's Day" being one of them. Our traditional "Father's Day" in America is a holiday honoring one's father, grandfather or relevant father figure, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Across our nation, it is annually observed on the third Sunday of June. Credit for originating the holiday is generally given to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington in 1910. Her father is said to have been a Civil War veteran who raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. Today it is held on various dates across the world with different regions maintaining their own traditions of honoring fatherhood.

One of the most significant roles in society, both past and present, is that of being a father. The foundational role of fatherhood in the family structure is pivotal to the overall wellbeing of our children. It has been statistically proven that children raised in homes with good fathers or father figures produce emotionally stable, productive adults. Many of us are familiar with the statement, "As the family goes, so goes the world." We look to fathers for guidance, wisdom, affirmation, love, discipline and security just to name a few of the aspects of this crucial role in life and family as we know it. You need not look far to experience the impacts of fathers and father figures in today's society ... positive or negative!

So why is the role of fatherhood so significant in humanity, past and present? The answer to this question can be found in the Holy Bible. The role of "father" was created by God, "our heavenly Father," as seen in Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-25; and Genesis 4:1-2. As evidenced in these scripture passages, family and parenthood were the pinnacle of God's creation with the express intent of relationship with Him first and second, each other. It's within the family structure that children first experience relationship between and with their father and mother. When our heavenly Father desired to demonstrate His unconditional love for us, He sent His divinely conceived Son, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin named Mary, and commissioned Joseph, her husband, to be His "earthly father" until He became of age. Throughout the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we see evidence of a strong sense of "fatherhood" birthed out of the relationship between Him and our heavenly Father. Without a doubt, "fathers" are extremely significant to God!

Church Women United sisters in Christ take time this month, and every day, to champion fathers around the world who endeavor to be the best "fathers" they can be and we pray and request God's grace and mercy for those who are adversely challenged with the blessing of fatherhood. We continue to advocate for those families with absent fathers leaving mothers and others to be both fathers and godly father figures. Ultimately, we praise God that He continues to extend the invitation of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, to anyone that they may come to experience the priceless relationship and love of Him being their Heavenly Father. "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." (John 16:27)

Happy Father's Day blessings to all fathers, grandfathers and father figures!

***Joyfully Submitted,
Rev. Lillie Holman, Spiritual Formation Director
Church Women United, Inc.***

