
Sunday, June 17, 2018
Did You Know?

Happy Father's Day

Since today is Father's Day, I want to speak to all the dads. At last year's men's retreat we learned that men in their 30's and 40's have it the hardest. This is the age of the majority of the dads in our church. It is during this stage that so much is demanded of us. We have bills to pay, a career to advance, a family to raise, kids who need our attention, a marriage that needs to be cultivated, aging parents to care for, endless chores, and a church to grow and serve. We are wearing many hats and are being pulled from many different and demanding directions. It's also during this stage in life that we stop exercising, we start eating poorly, we spend more time on the couch, and we end up adding 10-30 pounds of weight. Then, we have our first signs of health concerns. Our doctors inform us that we have the early signs of diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and other ailments.

So, what is father to do? We know we can't throw in the towel and run away. Too many people are depending on us. Do we need another vacation? Do we need less on our plates? Even if we could, which of these responsibilities would we remove? All of them are equally important, but, if you were forced to give up one of those things listed above, perhaps many of you would choose church. We can tell ourselves that there's always someone else that can pick up the slack at church, but no one can fill in at the family and in one sense you'd be right, but before you decide, consider this...

If you're like me, when life starts getting really busy, we pray less or stop praying altogether. We shut our Bibles and our church attendance gets spotty. Consider the dangers of this course of action. When life demands more of us, we don't need less of God, quite the opposite. We need more of God, and the means by which we come to know God, have been given to us by God. The regular means by which we come to know God are through the Scriptures, through prayer, and through the regular worship of the gathered community known as the church. In going to church, I am telling myself that I am a finite being in need of rest, refreshment and renewal, especially in the spiritual sense. Coming to church is the Christian's way of carrying out the 4th commandment of keeping the Sabbath. It's our way of saying that Jesus is Lord. In coming to church we are reminding ourselves that we are weak, in need of the strength of God. In coming to church, we are saying, in the week that has passed and this week that is coming up, I need the Gospel, I need the grace of God, and I need others with whom I can share my burdens.

Dads, the key to being a great dad -- carrying all the responsibility that you do, is not by gritting your teeth a little harder and plowing through all your duties -- that's actually a recipe for disaster. The key is to trust in Christ, the one who carries our burdens, who invites all who are weary to come to him and receive rest. Hang in there, dads.

Soli Deo Gloria.
Pastor Peter