

## A LESSON IN PHYSICS

For their final exam a physics professor's final question puzzled the class. It was "What is the most profound way to profess your emotions?"

One student remembered a lesson from church where his pastor had spoken using Romans 8:39: *"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* and gave this as his definitive response. He passed.



## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A Sunday School teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her pre-school class. After explaining the commandment, *"Honour your father and your mother,"* she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little girl answered, "Thou shalt not kill!"



## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

After church one morning, one of the parents invited the pastor over for dinner along with several families from their church. At the table, she asked her six-year-old to say the blessing for the meal before they ate.

"I don't know what to say," she replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," her mother suggested.

The little girl bowed her head and prayed, "dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



## KEEPING FOCUSED

Near the end of the last semester, Johnny's English teacher asked him to give her a sentence with a direct object.

"Johnny quickly responded, "Teacher, everyone thinks you're beautiful!"

The teacher thanked him for the compliment, but then asked, "What is the object of your sentence?"

Without hesitation, Johnny replied, "A good report card."



## BEING NATURAL

During an annual family photograph, the photographer spoke to a young man standing to the side of the family. "It will make a much better picture if you put your hand on your dad's shoulder. His Dad quibbled, "It'd be more natural if he had his hand in my pocket."



**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

**Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!**



# GETTING CONNECTED

*Publication of...*

**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

Strathroy, Ontario N7G 1T5 519-245-0291 / 519-317-8659 (cell)

[firstbaptistchurchstrathroy@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistchurchstrathroy@gmail.com)

[www.FirstBaptistChurchStrathroy.ca](http://www.FirstBaptistChurchStrathroy.ca), Edited by Pastor Dave Adams

**June 2025**



"Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,  
and the glory of children is their fathers"  
(Proverbs 17:6)

## What's inside...

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- Being Natural



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loved & everyone is family!



**Sunday, 11 a.m. Services**

(10:30 a.m. for summer as of June 15<sup>th</sup>)

**20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario**

**Thot:** "Proverbs is a letter from a father about fathers and to fathers. It not only teaches a father how to lead his children, but how to live before them."

~ James Merritt

## A Simple Prayer of Thanks

I come not to ask, to plead, or implore You;

I come to tell You how much I adore You!

For to kneel in Your presence makes me  
feel blest,

For I know that You know all my needs best,

For fine weather, for blessings of work and  
of play,

For fathers who taught us to walk in your  
way,

All things fill me with joy just to linger with  
You

As my soul You replenish and my heart You  
renew.

So I give you this day (Though you've given  
it to me)

And ask that You lead me in the way that it  
should be

And receive this my prayer of thanks to You,  
dear Lord

Giving thanks once again for Your mercy  
and love

Fit me for always in Your kingdom above.

~ Author unknown

## THE QUIET BARBER

A customer settled himself into the chair, but before the barber could begin to cut his hair, he told him, "I know the weather's awful. I don't care who wins the world series; I don't bet on horse races. I know I'm getting thin on top, but I don't mind. Now get on with it."

"Well sir, if you don't mind," said the barber, "I'll be able to concentrate without slicing an ear if you just wouldn't talk so much!"



### Something to Think About...



When Isaiah comes, "*He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction*" (Malachi 4:6),

The trend today in Canada, as well as in many countries around the world is to have single parent homes where the father is absent, or if not physically removed, emotionally and spiritually absent in the lives of their children. As early as the 1990's it was observed that, "Though our society is only beginning to recognize it, the greatest family challenge in our era is fatherlessness..." (Louis Sullivan). The last thirty plus years have only seen this trend worsen. The Canadian Children's Rights Council recently published their report on *Fatherless Children in Canada* stating "Fatherlessness is one of the greatest social problems in Canada".

Cornel University professor Urie Bronfenbrenner, one of the most eminent developmental psychologists, wrote, "Children growing up in [father absent] households are at a greater risk for experiencing a variety of behavioural and educational problems, including extremes of hyperactivity and withdrawal; lack of attentiveness in the classroom; difficulty in deferring gratification; impaired academic achievement; school misbehaviour; absenteeism; dropping out; involvement in socially alienated peer groups, and the so-called teenage syndrome of behaviours that tend to hang together - smoking, drinking, early and frequent sexual experience, and in the more extreme cases, drugs, suicide, vandalism, violence, and criminal acts." An American study has concluded that father-deprivation is a more reliable predictor of a child's development including the increased likelihood of criminal activity than race, environment or poverty. Father-deprived children are 72% of all teenage murderers, 60% of rapists, 70% of kids incarcerated, twice as likely to quit school, 11 times more likely to be violent, represent 3 of every 4 teen suicides, are 80% of the adolescents in psychiatric hospitals, and account for 90% of runaways. (National Fatherhood Initiative (U.S.A.))

The fate of the future generations in Canada hangs in the balance. Yet God has shown us what we must do. In the last verses of the last book of the Old Testament, God lays the groundwork for what the family should be. As we

wait for the return of the Lord let us lean upon His Spirit to "*turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers*".

The mission of reconciling families is much more successful when Christ is present in the home. As we lift our eyes vertically and follow Jesus, we're much more aware of those for whom we're responsible for and much more likely to demonstrate the love and commitment to one another that we should.

James Merritt suggests most fervently "*Dads need to rediscover the important joy they've been given - to partner with our wives in the nitty-gritty business of building character in our children*". Only as fathers are present in their children's lives, having a heart for their children, can they model a life well-lived for them; only as fathers have surrendered to Jesus Christ, have chosen to be followers of God's Word, can they be the father God intended them to be in their children's lives.

This Father's Day, may we all pray for fathers to reconcile to their children and for children to look to their fathers as protector, teacher, encourager, setting the example for them to follow.

That brings me to another father sadly missing in our homes today. In this land of 'anything goes', despite our Christian roots, we've removed all thoughts of our heavenly Father leaving many Canadians no longer reading His love letter, the Bible or regularly attending church. Children are growing up without having access to God's Word or knowing just how much He loves them! Who is this heavenly Father of whom I speak? "*As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who revere Him*" (Psalm 103:13). He is God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has taken away our sins, carrying them to the cross, setting us free from the tyranny of the wicked one, Satan, and has given us His Holy Spirit in us to equip us for the task of life, living it well and overflowing in joy. Now that's a legacy we can pass on to our children, don't you think?

### Mark Your Calendar!

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Communion Sunday

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mission Encounter Group (1:30 p.m.)

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

**Russell O'Quinn – A Test Pilot's Story**

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day (10:30 a.m.)

**Tuesdays – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Revitalizing Small Church Bible Study

**Godwinks' Café**

**Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.**

**Weekly Prayer** (FBCS Prayer Room)

**Message Series**

(June 1 – 15)

**The Witness of the Church**

(June 22 – 29)

**What Jesus Taught Us**

