

Remnant Life Church
June 21, 2026
Father's Day
Reject the World's Armor
Ephesians 6:10-20

Father's Day, as well as Mother's Day, while wonderful and important in their own right, actually serve to divide pastors as to their place within the church and in particular how they are embraced, or ignored, on a Sunday morning

- There are many who do not believe either have a place on the church calendar
 - Neither Father's or Mother's Day are biblically based in the same way that leads us to celebrate Resurrection Sunday, Pentecost, or even Christmas each year
 - Both days were created to simply honor our fathers and mothers for their roles in our lives
- But I must tell you that I fall on the other side of the debate
 - I am in favor of celebrating both those days in church every year
 - That does not necessarily mean that I will devote an entire sermon to the topic but at the very least we are going to acknowledge the day
- Why do I think this way?
 - Well with Mother's Day the Bible speaks often to the importance of the role of a godly woman and mother
 - Without venerating her to a place she should not be, Jesus' mother Mary was obviously an important, central figure in Jesus' early life
 - And she lived her life as a model of what it means to be fully submitted to serving God in spite of outward appearances
 - And I must confess that I find it hard to ignore the fact that Jesus Himself utilized the term "heavenly Father" many times when speaking of God
 - And the importance of a godly father within the home cannot in any way be overstated
 - And we have become witness to what happens to the children of homes where the father has been replaced or omitted entirely
 - And so, to honor your father and mother, as we are commanded to do, means understanding their place and their role as it relates to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Most often what I do is utilize the life of a biblical father as a model or example of how we as men should live, not only as a father, but as a godly man regardless of your standing as a physical father

The man we will examine this morning is often completely overlooked primarily because of who he was married to

- Because God did not only select the right woman to be a mother to His Son, He also selected the right man to be His earthly father.

- Joseph was likely, in accordance with the customs of the day, probably in his mid to late 20's at the time of Jesus birth with Mary being in her early to mid-teens
 - Today that would be scandalous
 - But in biblical times this was the way that families were started
 - Not in a perverse, sinful way, but in a loving carefully crafted and controlled environment agreed on by two families in respect, love and kindness
- Betrothal in biblical times, their word for the engagement period, was also very different than it is today
 - This period could last several years as both parties prepared for the wedding
 - And the commitment between the man and the woman held the same power as that of the actual marriage itself
 - That is why there was the natural appearance of a powerful betrayal on Mary's part when it was discovered she was pregnant
- And while that became the focus of what was happening, how Joseph responded can be easily overlooked but it spoke of and demonstrated the depth of his character
 - We see three significant qualities demonstrated immediately by his actions

1. He was a loving man

- Toward Mary
 - We read in **Matt 1:19** that he was going to divorce her quietly when this all became known
 - The breaking of a betrothal held the same weight as the end of a marriage
 - Which is why in many translations the word divorce is used
 - Joseph had the legal right to even punish Mary publicly for what it appeared she had done
 - But his gentleness and love for her is evident by his decision
- He was loving toward Jesus
 - There is absolutely no evidence of "this is not my son"
 - In fact just the opposite is seen as he was a loving father teaching and guiding Jesus as a young boy (**Luke 2:51-52**)
 - And then we are witness to Joseph's concerns when Jesus is missing from the family as they are traveling home from Jerusalem
 - We read in **Luke 2:48** that Joseph was anxiously searching for Him
 - That word IOL means something that causes anguish and great pain
 - He was worried sick!
 - Joseph was a loving man

2. He was a devout man
 - He was obedient to what God told him to do
 - Joseph obeyed the angel who appeared to him and told him not to divorce Mary (**Matt 1:20, 24**)
 - He believed the unbelievable when he was told that she had not been unfaithful to him (**Matt 1:20**)
 - He obeyed the angel sent by God the second time when he was told to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to protect them from Herod's edict to kill all the male babies under the age of two in Bethlehem (**Matt 2:13**)
3. He was a man of faith
 - He left everything he had and went where God told him to go (**Matt 2:14**)
 - Much in the same way that his ancestor Abraham before him did when God told him to go and to trust Him along the way (**Matt 1:2-16**)

The interesting thing is, Joseph is not spoken of again after the birth accounts in Matthew and Luke except in the lineage of Jesus as Joseph's son in **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3**

- He most certainly was dead by the time Jesus was crucified
 - We deduce this by the fact that Jesus, while on the cross, asked John to care for Mary (**John 19:27**)
- While we know little about Joseph, we can be sure that he not only provided for his family, but he loved them, was an example of a Godly man, and demonstrated what it was to be a man of character and integrity
 - That is my first question for each of us this morning men
 - Are those words that would be used by others to describe you?
 - A man of character and integrity
 - If not, why not?
- This then takes me to my second question
 - How do we guard ourselves today in a world that is determined to keep men from living in a godly way?
 - To live in character, integrity, wisdom, and righteousness
 - Is this even possible?
 - I believe it is
 - But we must set our minds and hearts on the things of God, to live with a Christ-like demeanor every day

READ – Eph 6:10-20

- This is, admittedly, a strange text for a Father's Day message
 - Yet we truly are at war men
 - Not a war from without, although there are certainly many times that we must stand firm in our convictions as a child of God
 - But a war from within
 - A battle against what the world wants us to look like according to their definition of a what a man is
 - What is that definition?
 - Well, actually it is one of extremes

- On the one hand it is the image of Rambo, Jack Reacher, and The Terminator
 - Never back down, cold, calculating, win at all costs no matter the collateral damage
 - Obviously that type of man is devastating to the peace and security of the home
- Or it is the emasculated man who spends much of his time getting in touch with his feminine side
 - He is careful that nothing he does or says could ever be seen as taking a place of leading with the fear that someone's feelings might get hurt
 - That person too is destructive to the peace and security of the home

And so, the armor of God becomes a vital part of our living day-to-day in a way that honors God

1. Belt – which holds everything together
2. Breastplate – protected the vital organs
3. Shoes – firm footing to stand
4. Shield – overall protection
5. Helmet – protection for the head/mind
6. Sword – the power weapon

- Note: every piece is intended to cover the front
 - There is no armor for the back
 - The armor is for advancing forward not for protection as we run
 - In fact, when a soldier turned to run, he was at much greater risk
- Many times, how you visualize your armor will also determine how long you have to stay in a battle
 - If you see your armor as defensive only, then your opponent determines how long the battle lasts
 - But if you see it as offensive then you determine the length of the battle by what you choose to do secure in the knowledge of God's presence
- We are coming into, and I believe have already entered, a time when we can no longer afford to lay back and simply fend off the advances of the enemy
 - Like David we need to run toward the battle
 - We must regain the confidence of who we are in Christ!
- And MEN, that responsibility begins with us!
 - Father's Day, like Mother's Day, is not restricted to whether you have produced offspring
 - Being a father is investing in someone's life in love and humility
- If you are a husband which should be established before you become a father...
 - You are called to lead ([Eph 5:21-25](#)) in a godly manner – as a servant
 - You are called to provide ([1 Tim 5:8](#))
 - You are called to be a man of peace and honor ([Prov 17:1](#))
 - Is your home a place of peace?

- Or do you cause strife and unrest by the way you speak and how you treat others?
- If you are causing your wife anguish or pain through your actions God is going to hold you accountable
- As husbands you are called to love your wife as Christ loved the church (**Eph 5:25**)
 - How is that?
 - In unconditional love and sacrifice

Now the world promotes an armor too but it is the wrong kind

- Their armor is either too strong or it is too weak
- It is whatever is contrary to the way the Bible tells us we are to live as godly fathers and husbands

The Right Armor

1. The Belt of Truth – guards us against the lies of the enemy
2. The Breastplate of Righteousness – guards our heart, our emotions that can so easily lead us in directions that we should not go
3. The Shoes of the Readiness of the Gospel – takes us to those who do not know Jesus; **love the person-hate the sin (Eph. 6:12)**
4. The Shield of Faith – fends off the fiery darts of false accusations, insults, and setbacks that the enemy hurls at us
 - a. But make no mistake, there are too many overly sensitive men
 - b. *A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense (Prov. 19:11)*
5. The Helmet of Salvation – the true knowledge not the world's
 - a. It is the assurance of our salvation and forgiveness to leave our past and forgiven sins behind
6. The Sword of Spirit/His Word – the power of the Word of God to speak into our lives and those around us

And so my third and final question men, are you wearing the right armor?

- Are you just using it to hide and survive or are you moving toward the battle lines in your home, your office, and in your own personal life?
- We speak of the changes that must come to our world as starting in the church, but the church's foundation is the home
 - The family was the first social structure created by God (**Gen 2:24**)
 - The church structure came much later (**Acts 2**)
- The model of the first church was taken from the model of the home and men we are the one's responsible to see that everywhere we go the name of God is glorified and the love of Jesus is not just spoken but demonstrated with how we live our lives.
 - As a godly father, a godly husband, and a godly man