

FATHER'S DAY PASTOR'S PEN

Each third Sunday of June is designated for the observance of **Father's Day**. It is certainly proper to honor all men who indeed function in the capacity of this awesome responsibility. It is the day of commemoration and celebration of Dad, not only in recognition of his birth male position, but all men who have performed in the role of father figures (stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, godfathers, big brothers, etc). The idea of creating a day to honor Fathers began in Spokane Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd conceived the idea of Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.

The word father or fathers is found in the Bible more than 1,500 times. The Hebrew word for father is ab, which denotes a head or founder of a household, group, family or clan. It also defines one who is the originator or patron of a class or profession. Dual characteristics of fatherhood are benevolence and protection. It entails the position of respect and honor as well a ruler or chief. The Greek word for father is pah•teer, which denotes a progenitor, namely the male ancestor or paternal generator or originator of a person or a group of people. Basically it is one who is charged with insuring the protection and provisional interest of others.

God is called our Father because He is by His attributes our creator, upholder, ruler, corrector, protector, provider, guardian and preserver. God is revered as our loving Father who has reconciled us into a spiritually close and intimate relationship with Himself (Romans 8:14-17). God is also identified as the Father of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, who is united with Him in the closest bond of mercy and intimacy. It is through this special relationship, God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and man as created sons in God's purpose (salvation of the elect) that was implemented in eternity.

The Grace Gospel Church Ministry highly endorses the observance of Father's Day. We believe that a strong family unit is greatly enhanced when godly fathers strive to emulate the characteristics of God, our Supreme Father. Natural or earthly fathers are commissioned by God to perform the role of exemplifying those fatherly traits that are so necessary for the substance of life. We say Happy Father's Day to all Fathers.