

## Honoring Our Fathers

Sunday is Father's Day, and the observance of it surely is in keeping with the Fifth Commandment to honor our fathers and mothers that our days may be long upon the earth.

For those of you whose father is still alive, please heed this message: Don't miss an opportunity – Sunday, to be certain, but anytime – to show your respect and love for your father. Perhaps these feelings are expressed in a gift, and multitudes will choose this way to say, "I love you, Dad."

Many will offer a present of their time, and, probably, most fathers would agree that this is the best gift of all. After all, what can be more valuable than a part of oneself, shared with those we love?

Countless others are in my situation. Your father has passed on, and Father's Day can only stir a flood of memories. And precious and comforting they are.



How do we celebrate today? How do we pay tribute to departed dads? We honor them by ...

- Wearing the spiritual mantle that they left us – obeying God and His precepts, accepting Christ as not only our Savior, but as Lord of our lives.
- Being the leader of faith in our families, setting a godly example.
- Serving other people, as Christ taught by word and deed.
- Participating in community causes that contribute to the common good.
- Giving an honest account of our time, energies and skills in the work we are called to do.
- Fostering an environment that leads to the enjoyment of life – one in which we can find humor and not take ourselves too seriously.

Come to think of it, these are guidelines for honoring all fathers. Living or deceased. Sunday and every day.

I am grateful that my father, Wiley Waymon Hunter, 1910 – 1985, tried his best to teach me these paths in which to walk. When I stumble, or stray from them, as he sometimes did, I am comforted in the knowledge of the forgiveness that an earthly father was eager to extend, and – even more importantly – so is my Heavenly Father.

– Beecher Hunter