**Fathers Day 2025 (sjm 6-15-2025)**

**A great big hats off to the Fathers of our church: I know most of you personally and can vouch for the hard work, often working long hours to provide for your family, your dedication to the growth of your family, your love and care for the family and sacrifices that you have made to help the family to mature, be Christ like and to be successful. Financial sacrifices right here at NCL to make this church what it is! Time sacrifices to edify the body of Christ! *Ask for Fathers to stand and applaud***

**Eph 5:23**  For the husband is the **head** of the wife as Christ is the **Head** of the church, his body, of which he is the **Savior**

**Savior -** A person who saves someone or something from danger, ruin or defeat*:*

*A Deliverer, defender, guardian, rescuer and a provider.*

**Head - not ruthless, not bossy, not a dictator:**

**When I look at this Christian Analogy I see a relationship:**

“***God to Jesus” “Jesus to the Man” “The Man to his Wife”***

**Lets Look at the Greek definition of the word Head –“Kephalē” pronounced kef-fal-lay**

Best defined not as the authoritative figure over a wife but = **The Source, Origin, or Beginning**

**I Believe a true application is = A Leader –** the role of a leader is to ***coach, guide, & inspire others***

***“To Move the Organization forward”* “*In this case yourself, the family & the church***

**I realize moist of us haven’t arrived yet!** I can get better at being a husband, parent, grandparent & someday a great grandparent.

**I am aware that it is a growing concern in today’s culture is the absence of a strong Father or male figure in the family: One who can not only be strong, but loving, A Protector but flexible: Decisive but Caring:**

***However best trait is to Lead by Example:***

**But God:** *I know that God is well aware of today’s y’s culture but from the foundation of the world planned a counterattack against the devils devises: Weakness in politics, weakness in our bodies and weakness in character and weakness or inability to move things forward:*

**I believe that God has designed a counterattack against the devil & the flesh! By an Outpouring of himself through the Holy Spirit: *Interjecting himself in us***

***Eph 4:11 11And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;***

***12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

***13Till we all come in the* unity of the faith*, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:***

***14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;***

***15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:***

**Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

*Formed – to take on a from or be shaped!*

**A Father is a Leader** - A leader moves the organization forward

1. **Your self** - are you moving your self forward? (only you can answer that)

***What is a man, what has he got, if not himself, than he has not. It all starts with you***

***Do you know who you are in Christ! Do you know how to pray! How to walk in Faith! Do you know how to stand against demonic attack!***

1. **Your Family Forward?**

**The father sets the tone for the family.**

**Love in the home** – Famous quote from ***TDJakers: You come how when you’re in love & when your not in Love “it’s a commitment”*** You walk in love regardless of how you feel towards your wife, kids, grandkids. I hear often, well they treated me poorly, so I am just reciprocating.

**You want Love in the home – then set the tone for love YOU WALK IN LOVE FIRST**

**God spoke to my spirit & said “Tie goes to the runner” (tie goes to your wife or kids in an argument. *(set the example)***

**God spoke to me & said: Sometimes you have to take a step back! *(like a car in a rut)***

**You want Peace in the home – sow peace in the home! (when everyone is arguing – clam up)**

**Wisdom in the home – get on your knees and pray James 1:5**

***Matt 10:16 Be wise as serpents & harmless as doves***

**You want Joy in the home – bring it yourself**

**The biggest problems it that all this takes time & energy:**

**(all irreconcilable differences mean is that No One wants to change!**

**A Leader is a change agent!**

**Many times it is a sacrifice The husband should be the last one to eat, sleep, have special things**

1. **Are you Moving the Church Forward?**

**Are you involved?**

**Are you using your gifts & callings?**

**Before I ever preached from this pulpit – I taught numerous bible studies for years**

**When Pastor Jerry asked me to do something I do not think I ever said – well I will have to pray about it*. (I knew where I was going and what I should be involved in ahead of time!)***

**Same principles as marriage: Time, Effort, Focus & Sacrificing: *(what is your strategic plan)***

**Let your bodies be a living sacrifice**

**Take up your cross & follow me**

**No one looking back - Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

**There are a lot of people with Ideas & Opinions, but what the kingdom of God needs is Leaders!**

***A leader puts up with a few things, but he strategically stirs it in the right direction***