



20th June 2021

Happy Father's Day



My observation is that fathers are not seen as doing as good a job as mothers. It is a dedicate balance being a husband, father and breadwinner. Although we can name many good mothers amongst our acquaintances, we struggle to name good fathers.

The Bible records good men of God who failed miserably as fathers. King David and the high priest Eli tops the list of bad fathers.

Important Role

While mothers are needed to keep the household running, fathers fulfil an important role in setting the example, maintaining discipline and setting the direction for the family.

Too often, the father is absent or neglects his duty so the mother has to come in and stand in the gap. In the case of single parent families, many children grow up without a father figure in the home, as the mother often is awarded custody of the children.

God-given Responsibility

Fathers cannot assume their place as the head of the house without earning it. It is not just occupying the head of the table but setting the family in order and working with the entire family to ensure the priorities are in the right order.

This takes work, planning and effort. Most of all, it requires spending time with the family, being there on occasions and taking time to celebrate birthdays, baptisms and church together.

Family Devotional

One area that is sadly lacking among fathers in Singapore is leading in regular family devotionals. This is such an important and key role for fathers to lead. I daresay that the father who has succeeded in doing this on a regular basis, will find the rest of his duties falling in place.

Better felt than Taught

Children will not remember everything you say but little pitchers have long ears. They will catch how you talk up or criticize the church and quickly sum up how your talk matches your walk.

Father's Day 2021

Today is international Father's Day 2021. How will today be different from the Father's Day in the past? Here are some suggestions.

1. Do not wait for a pat on the head. (Do you really think you deserve it?) Instead take the initiative to thank members of your family for their support, grace and forgiveness for your shortcomings.
2. Treat your family by doing something meaningful together.
3. Do better for the next 12 months.



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Introduction

Will be sharing a few sermons based on gospel hymns

Help to bring out intent – more meaningful when you sing it

Emphasize Bible facts and imagery from which the writer drew the lyrics

**Amazing Grace, how
sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like
me.
I once was lost but now
am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**



Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch, like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.



Story Behind the Song

Used widely for both religious and secular purposes – even sung by the crowds at sports matches

Written as a Christian hymn in 1779 by John Newton

He grew up without any particular religious conviction - became involved in the slave trade

In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of Ireland so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked his conversion

1764, Newton entered full-time ministry

Amazing Grace was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day of 1773



Amazing
Grace

First Verse

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Perfect description for grace

2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.*

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.*

Galatians 5:4 *You are alienated from Christ, you who desire to be justified by the law. You have fallen away from grace.*

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Story Behind the Song



Amazing
Grace

First Verse

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Ephesians 2:8 *for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*

Luke 15:24 *for this, my son, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.' They began to celebrate.*

John 9:25 *He therefore answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see."*

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Amazing
Grace

Second Verse

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Hebrews 12:28 *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear*

2 Corinthians 12:9 *He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.*

Ephesians 3:8 *To me, the very least of all saints, was this grace given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ*

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First Verse



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Amazing Grace
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First Verse
Second Verse

Third Verse

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men*

Titus 3:7 *that, being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Psalms 84:11 *For the Lord God is a sun and a shield. God will give grace and glory. He withholds no good thing from those who walk blamelessly.*



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Second Verse
Third Verse

Fourth Verse

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Probably the best – used at funeral, especially by military and uniformed personnel

1 Peter 5:10 *But may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*

Will never end or wear out



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Fourth Verse

Conclusion

Understanding grace is the key to our faith

When we internalize it, it becomes our eureka moment

- Helps us to appreciate God
- Understand our limitations
- Rely on God for everything

**Amazing Grace, how
sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like
me.
I once was lost but now
am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**
