

## **Father's Day Sermon-By Rev. Henry Dolopei**

**Theme:** *A Godly Father's Role and Influence in the Marriage/Family Unit*

**Text:** Proverbs 1:8

Scripture Reading

### **Proverbs 1:8**

**“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”**

### **Introduction**

Today, we gather to celebrate Father's Day and to thank God for fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, spiritual fathers, mentors, uncles, and all men who have helped shape families and communities through love, sacrifice, wisdom, discipline, and faith.

Our theme is **“A Godly Father's Role and Influence in the Marriage and Family Unit.”**

This message is very important today because the family is facing many pressures. Marriages are under pressure. Children are being influenced by social media, friends, music, culture, and the internet. Many homes are struggling with communication, discipline, respect, emotional distance, financial stress, and spiritual weakness.

But even in today's world, God's Word still gives us wisdom for the family. Proverbs 1:8 says, **“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”**

This verse reminds us that the home is the first school, the parents are the first teachers, and the family is the first place where children learn about God, love, respect, responsibility, forgiveness, discipline, and character.

Before children learn from the world, they should first learn wisdom from the home. Before they hear many outside voices, they should hear the voice of a godly father and a godly mother.

### **Context of Proverbs 1:8**

The Book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom. It teaches people how to live with understanding, discipline, humility, integrity, and the fear of the Lord. Proverbs gives practical wisdom for everyday life: how to speak, how to work, how to choose friends, how to handle money, how to respect authority, how to avoid evil, and how to live in a way that honors God.

In Proverbs chapter 1, the writer begins by explaining the purpose of wisdom. He wants the young to receive instruction, gain understanding, and learn righteousness, justice, and good judgment.

Then in **Proverbs 1:7**, the Bible says, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”** That means true wisdom begins with honoring God.

Immediately after that, verse 8 says, **“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”**

This is powerful because the Bible connects the fear of the Lord with instruction in the home. In other words, spiritual formation does not only happen in church. It begins in the family.

The father gives instruction. The mother gives teaching. The child is called to listen. This is God’s picture of wisdom being passed from one generation to another.

This verse also honors both parents. It shows that a strong family is not built by one parent alone. A strong family is built when the father and mother work together, respect one another, support one another, and guide the children in the way of the Lord.

### **1. A Godly Father Gives Instruction**

The verse says, **“My son, hear the instruction of thy father.”**

Instruction means teaching, guidance, correction, and wisdom. A father’s role is not only to provide money, food, shelter, and clothing. Those things are important, but fatherhood is deeper than material provision.

A godly father provides direction. He teaches his children how to live. He teaches them how to respect others, how to work hard, how to tell the truth, how to pray, how to forgive, how to handle disappointment, and how to make wise choices.

Today, many children are being instructed by the wrong voices. Social media is instructing them. The internet is instructing them. Friends are instructing them. The culture is instructing them.

That is why fathers cannot afford to be silent. If a father does not instruct his children, the world will gladly instruct them.

A godly father must speak life. He must speak wisdom. He must speak correction with love. He must speak blessing over his children.

### **Personal Example:**

A father may tell his child, “My son, always tell the truth, even when it is hard.” But that

lesson becomes stronger when the child sees the father practicing honesty. For example, if the father receives too much change at the store and returns it, the child learns honesty. If the father makes a mistake and says, “I was wrong; please forgive me,” the child learns humility. If the father refuses to cheat, lie, or take advantage of others, the child learns integrity.

Children do not only learn from what fathers say. They learn from what fathers do.

So every father must ask himself: **What am I teaching my children by my words, and what am I teaching them by my life?**

## **2. A Godly Father Honors the Mother**

Proverbs 1:8 says, **“and forsake not the law of thy mother.”**

This verse reminds us that the mother’s voice matters. Her teaching must be respected. But it also teaches fathers something very important: a godly father must honor the mother of his children.

One of the greatest gifts a father can give his children is to love and respect their mother.

Children learn about marriage by watching their parents. A son learns how to treat women by watching how his father treats his mother. A daughter learns what kind of love and respect she should expect by watching how her father treats her mother.

If a father speaks harshly to his wife, the children notice. If he disrespects her, the children notice. If he ignores her, the children notice.

But if a father speaks kindly, listens patiently, helps in the home, prays with his wife, and treats her with dignity, the children notice that too.

A father may tell his children, “Respect your mother,” but the strongest way to teach that is for the father himself to respect her.

### **Personal Example:**

Imagine a father coming home tired from work. He has had a difficult day. He could come home angry, complain, ignore everyone, and create tension in the house. But instead, he greets his wife with kindness, asks how her day was, speaks gently to the children, and helps where he can.

That child is learning something. The child is learning that strength is not harshness. Strength is patience. Strength is love. Strength is self-control. Strength is service.

A godly father understands that his marriage is part of his ministry. How he treats his wife may be one of the greatest sermons his children will ever hear.

### **3. A Godly Father Leads Spiritually**

A godly father is called to be a spiritual influence in the home.

This does not mean he must be perfect. It does not mean he must know every Bible verse. It does not mean he must have all the answers. But it does mean he must point his family to God.

Spiritual leadership is not only bringing the family to church on Sunday. It is also living faithfully at home Monday through Saturday.

A godly father prays with his family. He encourages worship. He teaches his children to trust God. He shows humility when he is wrong. He lets his family see that faith is not only something we talk about in church, but something we live every day.

#### **Personal Example:**

A family may go through a difficult season. There may be financial pressure, sickness, disappointment, or conflict. A father can respond with fear, anger, and hopelessness. Or he can gather his family and say, "We are going through a hard time, but we will pray. We will trust God. We will do our part, and we believe God will help us."

That kind of leadership strengthens the home. Children who see their father pray during hard times learn that God is not only for Sunday morning. God is for real life.

A godly father teaches his family that when life becomes difficult, we do not run away from God. We run to God.

### **4. A Godly Father Provides More Than Money**

Many people define a good father only as a provider. Yes, provision is important. A father should work, plan, and do his best to care for his family. But biblical fatherhood is more than paying bills.

Children need food, but they also need love.

They need shelter, but they also need safety.

They need clothing, but they also need confidence.

They need school fees, but they also need wisdom.

They need a house, but they also need a home.

Some fathers are physically present but emotionally absent. They are in the house, but they are not engaged. They provide money, but not time. They buy things, but they do not listen. They correct, but they do not encourage.

**Personal Example:**

A child may not remember every toy, shoe, or gift the father bought. But that child will remember when the father showed up for a school program. The child will remember when the father prayed before bedtime. The child will remember when the father listened during a difficult moment. The child will remember when the father said, "I am proud of you."

Sometimes the greatest gift a father gives is not in his wallet. It is in his presence.

**5. A Godly Father Disciplines With Love**

Proverbs speaks often about discipline and correction. But discipline must be done with love, not anger or abuse.

A godly father corrects because he loves. He does not discipline to embarrass, destroy, or provoke his children. He disciplines to guide them.

Children need boundaries. They need structure. They need correction. They need to know that choices have consequences. But they also need to know that they are loved, even when they make mistakes.

A father who never corrects may leave his children without direction. But a father who corrects harshly may wound their hearts. A godly father must ask God for wisdom to correct with truth and love.

**Personal Example:**

A father may warn his child about bad company. At first, the child may think, "Daddy is too strict." But later in life, that child may understand that the father was not trying to ruin their life. He was trying to protect their future.

Many adults can look back and say, "I did not understand my father's correction then, but now I thank God for it."

Discipline may not feel pleasant in the moment, but when it is done with love, it can save a child from danger.

**6. A Godly Father Builds Unity in the Family**

A godly father helps build peace and unity in the home.

Every family will face disagreements. Every marriage will face challenges. Every home will have moments of stress. But a godly father must not be the source of confusion. He must help bring peace.

He must learn to listen. He must learn to apologize. He must learn to forgive. He must learn to control his anger. He must learn to lead without pride.

A father's pride can damage a home, but a father's humility can heal a home.

**Personal Example:**

There may be a disagreement between husband and wife. The children may be watching. A father can choose to shout, insult, and walk away in anger. Or he can choose to calm down, speak respectfully, and say, "Let us talk about this peacefully."

That one decision teaches the children how to handle conflict. It teaches them that disagreement does not have to destroy love. It teaches them that peace is possible when there is humility.

A godly father does not only lead by giving commands. He leads by setting the atmosphere of the home.

**7. A Godly Father Leaves a Legacy**

Fatherhood is not only about today. It is about tomorrow. It is about legacy.

The influence of a godly father can continue long after his children grow up. His prayers can follow them. His words can guide them. His example can shape them. His faith can strengthen them.

A father may not leave millions of dollars, but he can leave something greater: faith, wisdom, integrity, discipline, courage, humility, and love.

Success is not only measured by what a man owns. It is measured by what he deposits into the lives of those God has placed in his care.

**Personal Example:**

A child may grow up and say, "My father was not perfect, but he loved God. He taught us to pray. He respected our mother. He worked hard. He corrected us when we were wrong. He showed us how to treat people. He taught us to trust God."

That is a powerful legacy.

A godly father's influence does not end in one generation. It can bless children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

**Relevance for Today**

Proverbs 1:8 is still relevant today because families still need wisdom. Children still need guidance. Marriages still need love and respect. Homes still need prayer. Fathers still need to lead with humility and faith.

Today, we need fathers who will rise up and be godly examples.

We need fathers who will pray.  
We need fathers who will love their wives.  
We need fathers who will guide their children.  
We need fathers who will speak wisdom.  
We need fathers who will be present.  
We need fathers who will correct with love.  
We need fathers who will protect the peace of the home.  
We need fathers who will depend on God.

A godly father does not have to be perfect, but he must be faithful. He does not have to be rich, but he must be responsible. He does not have to know everything, but he must be willing to seek God's wisdom.

### **Word to Fathers**

Fathers, your family needs your voice, but not only your voice. They need your example.

Your children are watching how you treat their mother. They are watching how you handle stress. They are watching how you speak when you are angry. They are watching whether you pray. They are watching whether you keep your word. They are watching how you treat people. They are watching whether your Christianity is real at home.

The home is where true character is revealed. It is possible to look spiritual in church and still be careless at home. But a godly father understands that his first ministry is his family.

Let your children see Christ in you. Let your wife experience love, honor, and respect from you. Let your home be a place of peace, prayer, discipline, laughter, forgiveness, and wisdom.

### **Word to Families**

Father's Day can bring different emotions. For some, it is joyful. For others, it may bring pain because of absence, loss, disappointment, or broken relationships.

To those who had a godly father, thank God and honor that legacy.

To those who did not have that experience, remember that God is a Father to the fatherless. God can heal wounds. God can restore hearts. God can raise up spiritual fathers and mentors.

To fathers who feel they have failed, there is still grace. It is not too late to apologize. It is not too late to reconnect. It is not too late to pray. It is not too late to rebuild. God is able to restore what has been broken.

To young men, prepare now. The husband and father you become tomorrow is being shaped by the choices you make today.

To mothers, we honor you also, because Proverbs 1:8 tells children not to forsake the teaching of their mother. Fathers and mothers must work together to build strong families.

## **Conclusion**

Proverbs 1:8 says, **“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”**

This verse gives us a beautiful picture of the family. The father instructs. The mother teaches. The child listens. Wisdom is passed from one generation to another.

A godly father has a powerful role in the marriage and family unit. He is called to instruct, love, protect, provide, guide, discipline, serve, and lead spiritually.

His influence can shape the home.

His example can strengthen the marriage.

His words can build the children.

His prayers can cover the family.

His faith can bless generations.

So on this Father’s Day, we celebrate fathers, but we also challenge fathers: be the man God has called you to be. Lead with love. Serve with humility. Speak with wisdom. Correct with patience. Honor your wife. Guide your children. Pray over your family. Build your home on the fear of the Lord.

A godly father may not be perfect, but when he walks with God, his family is blessed by his influence.

May God raise up fathers who will say, “Lord, use me to bless my marriage, my family, my children, my church, and my generation.”

## **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

we thank You for the gift of fathers and for the sacred responsibility of family. Today, we ask You to bless every father with wisdom, patience, humility, courage, and love.

Help fathers to lead their homes in a way that honors You. Teach them to instruct with wisdom, correct with love, serve with humility, and lead by example. Strengthen marriages, restore broken relationships, guide children, and bring peace into every home.

May our families be built on faith, love, respect, forgiveness, and the fear of the Lord. Let every father depend on Your strength and leave a legacy that glorifies You.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

**Amen.**