

# MESSAGE OUTLINE

## Sunday, June 9, 2024



10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **FATHERING A CHILD'S HEART—PART 1**  
3 John 4  
Pastor Gary Stump

What I say to you today I'm saying as an experienced father, grandfather, and now great grandfather. I'm talking to the fathers and grandfathers, but it is relevant for everyone. Moms & Grandmas need to listen closely as do young adults, teens and even kids! Plus, what I want to say is affirmed by the authority of the word of God.

This past Thursday we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day!

- 4,414 Allied Troops (2,501 Americans) died  
Dwight D. Eisenhower—leader of D-Day
- Supreme Commander of Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe
- 34<sup>th</sup> President of the USA

Just as Hitler declared war on Europe, our modern American culture has declared war on children!

### **WAR ON CHILDREN**

- **Breakdown of Marriage**
- **Abortion**
- **Gay Agenda**—targeted at children
- **Gentle Parenting**
- **Government-run Public School System** that is anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Bible
- **Universities**
- **Social Media**  
**1984** by George Orwell (pub. 1949)
  - Big Brother is watching you = TikTok, cell phones
  - Doublethink = double think & "Newspeak": "The purpose of Newspeak was not only to provide a medium of expression for the worldview and mental habits proper to the devotees of the Party, but to make all other modes of thought impossible."
  - Thought Police / Thought Crime = "political correctness"
  - Break-up of the family (children spy on parents)
  - Many people simply vanished = Cancel culture
- **Attack on Fathers**

Men are lost on how to navigate this toxic anti-male culture. So men tend to respond with either "toxic masculinity" or apologetically withdraw to the sidelines in silence. Men are afraid to lead their family. All of culture is telling men that they are the problem! And this messaging starts young...

### **The Boy Crisis by Warren Farrell**

"A half century of developing multipurpose women and no-purpose men has taken a toll that is both all around us and rarely seen: a cultural shift met by a cultural shrug... The boy crisis cannot be solved, then, without addressing the most important single crisis in developed countries: dad-deprived children, and especially dad-deprived boys... Dads—like moms, air, and water—are essential to our lives. But we've tried to live without dads. We haven't tried to live without moms, air, or water." " (Warren Farrell, *The Boy Crisis*, 79, 102, 105)

### **Are we guilty of child sacrifice? Are we sacrificing our children to the gods of this culture?**

*Ezekiel 16:20–21 (NLT) "Then you took your sons and daughters—the children you had borne to me—and sacrificed them to your gods. Was your prostitution not enough? Must you also slaughter my children by sacrificing them to idols?"*

How can you be a father against all this cultural flow? What can we do about this? How can we respond to this brutal attack on our children? How can we dads enlist for combat? Here's what the Lord says...

### **1. Choose to follow the Lord**

*Joshua 24:15-16 (NLT) But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”<sup>16</sup> The people replied, “We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods.”*

### **2. Realize we are only one generation away from godlessness**

*Judges 2:7, 10 (NLT) And the Israelites served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel...<sup>10</sup> After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.*

### **3. Share your faith stories with your children**

*Deuteronomy 4:9 (NLT) “But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.”*

### **4. Love and serve the Lord with your whole heart in front of your children**

*Psalms 103:17–18 (NLT) But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children<sup>18</sup> of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!*

### **5. Diligently teach your children**

*Deuteronomy 11:18–21 (NLT) “So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.<sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.<sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,<sup>21</sup> so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.”*

### **6. Leave your kids an inheritance of faith**

*Proverbs 13:22a (ESV) A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.*

## **SO WHAT?**

“If I could start my parenting journey anew, here's what I would do: I would display more love toward my wife in front of our children. I would embrace laughter, even in our mistakes. I would listen attentively, even to the youngest child. I would be honest about my own imperfections, never pretending to be flawless. I would pray differently for my family, focusing on my own growth instead of solely focusing on them. I would engage in more activities together with my children. I would offer more encouragement and provide instruction from the word of God. I would pay greater attention to small acts and words. Lastly, I would passionately share the gospel at every opportunity, every day that God grants me.” One dad's approach to his duty, (*The War on Children*, John MacArthur, p. 54)

### **Action Steps:**

- One meal together each day
- Daily Family Devotions
- Formally disciple your children
- Dump the Screens
- Prayerfully Consider Christian School

We can do this, Dads! It is mission-critical. We must respond to this call!



## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

**1. PRAYER & SHARE—Thursday, June 13th @ 7:00pm**—please come and pray with your church family.

**2. YOUTH CAMP JUNE 19-22 @ CAMP INDICOSO, SPRINGVILLE, IN.** Camp Indicoso, 1558 Sieboldt Quarry Road, Springville, Indiana. Arrival: 11am on Wednesday, June 19. Return: Pick up on Saturday, June 22 at 4pm. Cost: \$350/pp, (\$300/pp for multiple siblings, same family). Can pay cash or check payable to "Mission Christian Academy." You can give the money to Jerry Ackerman.

**3. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 20-22** at the Blue Gate Inn Shipshewana. Cost \$399 per family; \$250 per individual. Includes two nights lodging, two huge buffet breakfasts, and Amish dinner on Saturday evening. Limited space. To reserve your place or for more information visit: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/onwardfamilycamp>. Final payment due Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>.



Family Camp Registration

**4. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING**—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact [nancy1108smith@gmail.com](mailto:nancy1108smith@gmail.com) or 317-508-8149.

**5. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**—The Gideons have provided a display on the counter in the foyer for you to give God's word in honor or in memory of a loved one.

### **ONWARD CHURCH GIVING**



Giving QR Code

### **ONWARD PRAYER CARD ONLINE**



Prayer Card QR Code