

Father's Day 2020

Adlai Stevenson: *"It has been said that paternity is a career imposed on you without any inquiry into your fitness for it. That is why there are so many fathers who have children, but so few children who have fathers."*

The History of Fathers Day

- Dr. Robert Webb held what is believed to have been the first Father's Day celebration at the Central Church of Fairmont, in Fairmont, West Virginia in 1908. Most likely this celebration originated from observations of Mother's Day, which also had its birth in West Virginia.
- However, it was the efforts of Sonora Louise Smart Dodd that really led to instituting Father's Day as an official holiday in the United States. Sonora lived in Spokane, Washington, and came up with the idea of Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.
- Sonora's father, William Jackson Smart, was a Civil War veteran and had lost his wife as she bore their sixth child. William raised the six children on his own. Sonora felt her father was very loving, courageous, and selfless. Her father's birthday was in June and Sonora chose June 19th, 1909 for the celebration to honor fathers. Many report this as the first Father's Day celebration.
- We should also give some credit to Harry C. Meek, the president of the Lions Club of Chicago. He made several speeches expressing the need for a holiday to honor fathers. In 1920, the club presented him with a watch bearing the inscription, "Originator of Father's Day".
- In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge showed his support for Father's Day becoming a national holiday. However, Father's Day did not become an official holiday in the United States until many years later. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday in June be Father's Day.

Deuteronomy 6:1-3. (LEX)

1 "Now this is the commandment, the rules and the regulations, that Yahweh your God charged to teach to you for you to observe in the land that you **are about to** cross over into to take possession of it,

- Instructions to prepare you for that which GOD has prepared for you

2 so that you may revere Yahweh your God by keeping all his statutes and his commandments that I am commanding you, you and your children and grandchildren, all the days of your life and so you may live long lives.

3 And you shall hear, Israel,

and be careful to observe these instructions,

so that it may go well for you and that you may multiply greatly,

just as Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, promised you, in a land with milk and honey. ¹

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV) SHEMA!

4 “Hear, O Israel:

The LORD our God,

the LORD is one! ²

- **HEAR!**

- A command to listen – but more

- Listen and obey

- DO – don't just hear – LISTEN to procure the heart to obey

- The sentence which follows is highly condensed, consisting of only four Hebrew words: “Yahweh our-God Yahweh one.”

It is important that love can be commanded (v. 5; cf. 11:1, 13, 22).

- **It is not therefore an emotion only** but is closely bound up with obedience. To love God means full commitment to follow God's intentions. ³

5 You shall love the LORD your God

with all your **heart**,

with all your **soul**, and

with all your **might**.

The greatest of all the commandments!

Matthew 22:35–40

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him,

“ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,

¹ W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Dt 6:1–3.

² *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Dt 6:4–9.

³ Ian Cairns, *Word and Presence: A Commentary on the Book of Deuteronomy*, International Theological Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Edinburgh: W.B. Eerdmans; Handsel Press, 1992), 84.

with all your soul, and with all your mind. ⁴

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

With all your heart

- **"Heart"** (lebab) in Hebrew signifies not only the physical organ but also **the inner core of personality** (the physical and spiritual being regarded as indivisible aspects of the one total person).

So, to love Yahweh with the whole heart means to open to God all the processes of thinking, feeling, and deciding, to be shaped and honed as instruments aligned to God's purposes. 5

With all your soul:

- **"Soul"** (Heb. *nephesh*) does not mean the "immortal part of personality that survives death," but rather **the principle of life shared by humans and animals (Gen. 2:7, 19, "living nephesh"!).**
 - **Compared with lebab, nephesh is related more closely to**
 - **emotion, feelings, and desires:**
 - **appetite (Job 6:7),**
 - **thirst (Isa. 29:8),**
 - **greed (Ps. 10:3),**
 - **hope (Deut. 24:15),**
 - **sadness (Isa. 38:15), and so forth.**
 - **Hence to love with the "nephesh" means to place our feelings and desires at God's service and conform them to God's will.** 6

With all your Strength

- **"Might"** (Heb. me.od) literally means "muchness," "exceedingness," "intensity."

In 2 Kgs. 23:25 Josiah's "turning ... with all his might" is described, in the context of 2 Kgs. 23, as a single-minded endeavor to establish everything

⁴ "mind" **1271. διάνοια *diánoia***; gen. *dianoías*, fem. noun from *dianoéomai* (n.f.), **to agitate in mind**, which is from *diá* (1223), denoting separation, and *noéō* (3539), to think over. Understanding, intellect, intellectual faculty, thought, mind. (Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁵ Ian Cairns, *Word and Presence: A Commentary on the Book of Deuteronomy*, International Theological Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Edinburgh: W.B. Eerdmans; Handsel Press, 1992), 84.

⁶ Ian Cairns, *Word and Presence: A Commentary on the Book of Deuteronomy*, International Theological Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Edinburgh: W.B. Eerdmans; Handsel Press, 1992), 84–85.

required by God's torah and to eliminate everything forbidden by it.

Me. od then is a single-minded, love-inspired zeal and determination to realize the whole will of God. ⁷

- **NO OTHER GODS!**

Exodus 20:3-7. (LEX)

3 There shall be for you no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a divine image with any form that is in the heavens above or that is in the earth below or that is in the water below the earth.

5 You will not bow down to them, and you will not serve them, because I am Yahweh your God, **a jealous God,** punishing the guilt of the parents on the children on the third and on the fourth generations **of those hating me,**

8130 נִיָּץ [*sane' /saw·nay/*] v. A primitive root; TWOT 2272; GK 8533; 146 occurrences; AV translates as “hate” 136 times, “enemies” three times, “enemy” twice, “foes” once, “hateful” once, and translated miscellaneously three times. **1** to hate, be hateful. **1A** (Qal) to hate. **1A1** of man. **1A2** of God. **1A3** hater, one hating, enemy (participle) (subst). **1B** (Niphal) to be hated. **1C** (Piel) hater (participle). **1c1** of persons, nations, God, wisdom. ⁸

➤ **Unloyal love**

6 and **showing loyal love** to thousands of generations of those loving me and of those keeping my commandments.

7 “You shall not misuse the name of Yahweh your God, **because Yahweh will not leave unpunished anyone who misuses his Name.** ⁹

6 “And these words which I command you today, shall be in your heart.

- **To meditate:**

Psalm 1:1–3

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

⁷ Ian Cairns, *Word and Presence: A Commentary on the Book of Deuteronomy*, International Theological Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Edinburgh: W.B. Eerdmans; Handsel Press, 1992), 85.

⁸ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

⁹ W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Ex 20:3–7.

3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalm 5:1–3

1 Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation.

2 Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.

"A godly father is the unseen spiritual submarine who lurks below the surface of every activity of his child's life. A man who has put on the full armor of God and with that armor, goes to warfare on his knees for his children, is a force to be reckoned with...we cannot be with our children 24 hours a day...through our prayers we have the ability to affect situations even when we are not physically present. You may be undetected but that does not mean you are ineffective."

- Steve Farrar, *Standing Tall*, Page 199.

7 You shall **teach them diligently** to your children,

and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
when you walk by the way,
when you lie down,
and when you rise up.

Are you still unqualified to be a "Teacher"?

Hebrews 5:12 For though **by this time you ought to be teachers,**

you need someone to teach you again

the first principles of the oracles of God;

and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

- **Mark Twain**

Diligence:

• dil•i•gent \ 'di-lə-jənt\ adjective

[Middle English, from Middle French, from Latin diligēt-, diligens, from present participle of diligere

to esteem, love, from di- (from dis- apart) + legere to select — more at legend]

: characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort : painstaking. 10

- 8150 שָׁנַן, שָׁנַן [shanan /shaw·nan/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 2422; GK 9111 and 9112; **Nine occurrences; AV translates as “sharp” four times, “whet” twice, “sharpen” once, “prick” once, and “teach diligently” once.**

1 to sharpen, whet.

1A (Qal) to whet, sharpen.

1B (Piel) to sharpen, teach (incisively).

1C (Hithpolel) to be pierced. 11

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.



9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- In mainstream Rabbinic Judaism, a mezuzah is affixed to the doorpost of Jewish homes to fulfill the mitzvah (Biblical commandment) to "write the words of God on the gates and doorposts of your house" 12

¹⁰ Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

¹¹ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

¹² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezuzah>



- “Shaddai – typically written on the mezuzah