



Bulletin

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It's Clergy Appreciation Month!

Celebrate Your Pastors

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

—1 Timothy 5:17

God has entrusted to pastors one of the most precious of assignments—the spiritual well-being of His flock. When pastors become ineffective, the very souls of their parishioners are affected.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

Don't your pastors and their families deserve this kind of recognition? You can do something about it! For ideas to help your pastors feel appreciated this Clergy Appreciation Month, visit ThrivingPastor.com/clergyappreciation.



TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

Why are
Christians called
"the body
of Christ"?



Bring Your Bible to School Day

On October 8, students across the country will share God's hope and celebrate their religious freedoms by doing something simple yet powerful: bring a Bible to school and talk about it with their peers.

Bring Your Bible to School Day is an event for students to express a biblical viewpoint on their campuses in a loving and respectful manner. By participating—whether as just one student or with a group of students—your child can have a redemptive impact at school and encourage other students of faith who may feel isolated.

To learn more about Bring Your Bible to School Day, visit BringYourBible.org.



'I'm so Embarrassed!'

I watched my daughter attempt to remove a piece of strawberry lodged in her new braces. Seeing her frustration, I subtly looked around. No one was watching. With lightning-quick skill, I dislodged the offending morsel. My daughter's relief quickly morphed into mortification: Standing across from us were two boys from her school.

On the drive home, my daughter lamented, "I'm so embarrassed! Do you know how many times I'm going to hear about this on Monday?" We knew the worst thing she could do was pretend it never happened. Her best option was to have a ready response. We brainstormed various one-liners, and she settled on a couple she liked.

Since then, our family has had many embarrassing moments. To help our kids through these awkward times, my husband and I have found that the most effective strategies include role-playing with and praying for them to be courageous.

We've also learned to laugh at ourselves. We even have "tell-all dinners." At them, we recount embarrassing moments and how we responded. These are no-friends-allowed affairs with one ground rule: Everything said at the table, stays at the table.

The Monday after the stubborn strawberry incident, I waited nervously for my daughter to come home from school.

"How did it go?" I asked.

Her grin told all. "After laughing about it together, I realized I wasn't that embarrassed anymore."

—Julie Reece-DeMarco

A Healthy Approach to Manhood

As we work to raise our sons into the next generation of men, we must remember that no boy has ever been effectively scolded or shamed into healthy manhood. Rather, he must be welcomed into it through caring guidance and affirmation.

Before we can invite our boys into healthy manhood, we must understand what authentic masculinity is. Men can be masculine without wrestling alligators or smashing through the defensive line to score a touchdown. They can even be masculine while ballet dancing or cooking exquisite recipes. Just ask Russian-American dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse. Who has any doubts about their masculinity?

These men and millions of others exhibit a variety of unmistakably masculine qualities. Of course, not all men will exhibit these qualities in the same ways. But this doesn't make them any less manly.

So what is healthy manhood? Here are three key principles that our boys should be learning:

Men are explorers. Dads must teach their boys how to explore, to see what's over the next hill, beyond the next

curve in the road. Encourage your son's natural curiosity. Better yet, become his cohort in discovery. Depending on your son's natural bent, his exploration might mean wading through a frog pond, riding his bike through the neighborhood or peering through a microscope. Learn what excites your son, and join him in the adventure.

Men are risk takers. Whether your son wants to try out for football or audition for the school play, encourage him to risk failure and disappointment in order to experience success. Nudge him toward smart risks, alert him to foolish ones, and teach him the difference between the two.

Men are initiators. Boys need to learn how to initiate the right action at the right time. They need to know when things should be started, such as standing up to a bully, and when they shouldn't, such as throwing a ball inside the house. Your job is to curb your son's compulsiveness without killing his initiative. Give him the grace to make mistakes and to learn from them.

—Glenn Stanton



Family Matters

Answers to your questions . . .

As a husband and a father, I'm concerned with being a good spiritual leader of the family. Can you give me some hints on what being a spiritual leader means?

Answer: Since spiritual leadership grows from a man's relationship with Christ, it defies a simple description. But here are a few ideas to help you get a better picture of the qualities needed.

1. **Connection to God.** A spiritual leader seeks his happiness in Christ first, realizing that he can lead effectively only if he has an intimate relationship with God. Understanding he has nothing to give if he doesn't first receive from God, he looks for spiritual sustenance so he'll be able to feed his family's heart.
2. **Balance.** A spiritual

leader pursues this for the good of his faith and family. He has the freedom to enjoy his own interests, knowing it's okay to spend an occasional Saturday morning on the golf course as long as it doesn't usurp important family time. He discusses things with his wife rather than handing down unilateral decisions, finding safety in the give-and-take of their partnership.

3. **Nurture.** He attends to his family's physical health and sustenance and considers the mental and emotional needs of each person. He seeks to superintend his family's spiritual development individually and corporately. He knows his goal is a whole, functional family, not just a bunch of polished individuals.

4. **Action.** As problems emerge, he looks for proven resources that will help. He's proactive, spotting potential challenges and solutions. Instead of waiting until things get worse, he remains on the offense, delighting in applying solutions to his loved one's needs.
5. **Integrity.** He seeks to be the safest, most respected man known by his family. He deals with each person carefully, but with resolve, recognizing that he's a steward of what God has given him. His servant leadership inspires other family members to go beyond their duties and be imitators of Christ—and of him.

(Adapted from *The Smart Groom's Answer Guide*, general editors Phillip J. Swihart and Wilford Wooten)

**TOUGH
QUESTIONS
FROM KIDS**

Answer:

God talks about us being a body to show how Christians should work together with the special gifts He's given us. That means each of us has abilities that can be used to help other believers. And, like the parts of the body, we need each other. All our gifts are important.

For more information on any of the topics in this bulletin, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com or call 800-A-FAMILY (232-6459). To reach Customer Service regarding your subscription, please call 800-692-9912. To check out more church resources and read the editor's thoughts, please visit us at www.tyndaleperiodicals.com.

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