

“Talk to the experts in crime, drug abuse, depression, school failure, and they can point to some study somewhere blaming those problems on the disappearance of fathers from the American family. But talk to the fathers who do stay with their families, and the story grows more complicated.

“Fathers were to teach their children religious piety and doctrine, while installing good work habits and the necessary knowledge to succeed in a mostly agrarian economy.”

What they are hearing, from their bosses, from institutions, from the culture around them, even from their own wives, very often comes down to a devastating message: We don't really trust men to be parents, and we don't really need them to be.”

The modern day father comes in various forms. Today's father is no longer always the traditional married breadwinner and disciplinarian in the family. He can be single or married; externally employed or stay-at home; gay or straight; an adoptive or step-parent; and a more than capable caregiver to children facing physical or psychological challenges.

WE WERE CREATED TO WORK

“Small business owners are struggling at record levels trying to get workers back in open positions”

Prov. 6:6-11

⁶Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.
⁷Without having any chief,
 officer, or ruler, ⁸she prepares her bread in
 summer and gathers her food in harvest.
⁹How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
 When will you arise from your sleep?
¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber,
 a little folding of the hands to rest,
¹¹and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
 and want like an armed man.

“Disciples of Christ should be bothered by lazy Christians who do shoddy work. We should know better because we have *the* job manual through the pages of scripture in our hands. While we’re posing questions in this post, we should then ask, “What kind of store clerk or mechanic or kitchen worker or school- teacher should we be?” The very best. Why? God is the best and he made you and gave you a new birth to be among the best.

What would Luther and the pioneers of the Protestant Work ethic think of American workers today? I hate to imagine, though the German reformer of the 16th century did understand the meaning of work when he wrote, “The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays – not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”

we are to be obedient to
God's commands.

must be dedicated
to the family
