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CAC GOOD NEWS

CHRIST APOSTOLIC CHURCH SPRING OF LIFE CHAPEL

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CAC GOOD NEWS

22nd October 2018

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Message—The Challenges of Fatherhood in Digital Age Part 2

Preacher: Elder SEA Olamilokun

Text: Deut 6 verse 5 to 7.

THE CHALLENGES OF FATHERHOOD IN A DIGITAL AGE

We have established early in this message, that as Christian, we will be provided for by our Heavenly Father as we provide for our children too. Otherwise, the greatest challenge anyone can face in this age is enough money to cater for the numerous needs of the family, especially the children. Let me dwell a little bit on the present age which is the Information or Digital Age. The Digital Age is an era where children want to be heard and also they want a free space to discover themselves. All fathers are supposed to understand this and map out strategies in order to meet their needs and also keep a good and balanced Christian home. Christian Fatherhood is different from what it is in the world. A father, in the Christian sense, may be biological, spiritual, surrogate, and even leaders and elders in the Church. Christian fatherhood transcends the immediate family but may include those who need our fatherly advice and care. The Digital Age started not so long ago, maybe 15 to 20 years ago. The Digital Age came and we have proliferation of electronic games and gadgets, mobile phones, computer of all sorts and the Internet. These new devices have presented us with numerous challenges. On the other hand, Father's Day was founded in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, born in Spokane. She was also the driving force behind its establishment. Since then, it has been celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of June. There are several challenges of fatherhood in this Digital Age that were not present in the previous age, the Industrial Age when Christians started to honour Fathers.

Funding and Mastering the Hardware and Software of the Digital Age
The greatest challenge we face as parents in the digital age is keeping pace with the hardware and software that are constantly changing but are available for the use of our children and their peers. First, we will have to fund these toys for them and probably, for ourselves. Secondly, in order to be able to perform our role of mentoring and discipline, every father must be conversant with the way his children behave.

Internet/Blackberry/Facebook/Twitter and other social networks.

Playbox and other Computer Games

We must spell out the rules. How can we do this effectively if we do not know what they are about? Our Digital Fathers must be a step ahead of our children. We must test run their toys before they get to see them from their peers. That way, we can tell them where to go and where not to go.

Communication Difference

Many times, there is communication gap between fathers and their children. Sometimes we feel they should understand us but they don't. This is a major challenge in this Digital Age. The language we use are not consistent with their own. In order to reach out to our children we must understand them or at best, learn their own language. Somebody sang and said 'Ori mi wu oo E lagi mo'. For a very long time I couldn't understand why should someone decided to praise God using that language. But now I do. I tried to understand his language. We must understand the languages of our children. A mother kept sending lol to the daughter anytime she finished chatting with her.

The daughter wondered what was hilarious about ending a message. She called the mother to find out why. Mother meant 'lot of love' while daughter read ' laugh out loud'. This is obviously a clear example of communication mismatch.

Time

One cause of the communication gap between parents and children, some experts say, is the fact that many loving and devoted fathers are simply too busy, too caught up in the hundred and one pre - occupations of their daily lives, to spare time for conversation with their children. While our child is saying what happened in school during dinner our minds have wondered away thinking of so many things to be done before the next day of work. Our children are quick to sense that our thoughts are elsewhere and it hurts them very much if no attention is given to them. It is true that fathers in this Digital Age are very busy people with hectic schedules but a child needs to count on us in some cases. Pretending to listen to them however can be worse than not listening at all. As fathers, we must find time for our children no matter how hard.

Body language

Fathers say one thing sometimes and mean another. There may be many reasons for this. Sometimes we don't want to hurt our children's by revealing our true feeling. Children are especially sensitive to this non verbal language and they easily sense that something is amiss. We should be open with our children to avoid sending wrong signal to them.

Be their Model and their Mentor

As a father, it is our duty to be a role model to our children. This is why in Yoruba there is this adage that says Iya ni Wura, Baba ni dingi. Meaning that Mother is like a Gold to us very precious while Father is like a Mirror with which we look at ourselves. This is very important. We must show good example to our children as we are their first teacher. Children pick good habits from their parents..... And bad habits too.

Making mistakes

As human, fathers sometimes feel angry. We try to hide this so that our children don't know where susceptible to making mistakes. But children need contact with real people not with saints. If we hide our feelings and cover up our mistakes, our children will know it and may ultimately lose faith in us. If on the other hand, we have the courage to admit to our human weaknesses they are likely to respect our honesty and trust us more not less. It is natural for parents (father) to make mistakes in raising a child, just as they make mistakes in other areas of their lives. The burden of having to feel and do the right thing all the time causes a tremendous strain. Far better, than to accept that sometimes we are bound to over react, to fly off the handle as the least provocation, to accuse a child wrongly of some behaviour, to threaten and mete out punishments that weren't deserved. We need to recognize that it is right to apologize to our child when we know we have reacted too severely. This in no way diminishes our authority but helps the child to see us as normal human beings

Acceptance

One of the hardest things in the world for a father to do is to see his child as the unique individual that he is. Instead we tend to see our children in the light of our own experiences needs and values. All children need acceptance if they are to function at their best. Accepting a child as he is involves not making undue comparison with any other child. Every child is uniquely made. We should not destroy our child's self esteem by running him/her down even when a mistake has been made. The father has to help most in giving him/her the kind of support and guidance he needs.

The Good Side of the Digital Age

The Digital Age is not all bad stories. The TV and the Internet have become good media for preaching the Gospel and winning souls for Christ. So when you son/daughter is starring on his/her mobile phone (iPod), iPhone or even BB, he may be reading the Bible or getting some inspirational tweets that are scriptural. After all, the Bible encourages us to get close to all scriptures which are provided by the inspiration of God. 2 Tim 3 v 16 and 17. Some of the inspirations of God now comes in digital form.

Conclusion

In bringing to a close this message, I will leave us with some quotations on fatherhood.
 "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."
 -- Theodore Hesburgh, Catholic Priest and President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame
 "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."
 -- Clarence Budington Kelland, U.S. Writer
 "My dad has always taught me these words: care and share."
 -- Tiger Woods, U.S. Professional Golfer
 "It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father."
 -- Pope John XXIII

CAC SPRING OF LIFE—WEEKLY PROGRAMME

MONDAY

5:30 AM - 6:30 AM - HOUR OF MERCY

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM - HAND OF GOD / TARRY SERVICE

TUESDAY

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM - WOMEN PRAYER MEETING

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - PRAYER WARRIOR (MEN) MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM - SUNDAY SCHOOL PREVIEW

11:00 PM - 1:00 AM - PRAYER WARRIOR NIGHT VIGIL

THURSDAY

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM - BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY

(SECOND AND LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH)

12 MIDNIGHT - 3:30 AM - GENERAL NIGHT VIGIL

SATURDAY

5 PM TO 7 PM CHOIR PRACTICE

SUNDAY

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM - FIRST SERVICE (ENGLISH)

9:00 AM - 10:00AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL COMBINED

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM - SECOND SERVICE (YORUBA/
ENGLISH)

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

7:00 PM - 8:00PM - PRAYER WARRIOR'S MEETING

COUNSELING HOUR 6:00PM - 9:00PM DAILY