

SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 8, 2013

Announcements for the Week	Jason LaChappelle
Morning Service	Evening Service
Prayer- Doug Davidson	Prayer- Marshall Irvin
Song Leader- Andy Dobbs	Song Leader- John Paul Baker
Communion:	
-- Comments – Russ Sollars	Comments – Marshall Irvin
-- Assisting – Mark Jones	Communion – Kevin Criswell
-- Assisting – David Johnson	
-- Assisting – Phillip Dorn	
-- Assisting – Andrew Johnson	
-- Scripture – Cliff Davis	Scripture – J. Maxwell Irvin
Closing Prayer- Andy Fuller	Closing Prayer- Mike Shepherd

Wednesday Night – December 11, 2013

First Prayer- Doug Davidson
Song Leader – Dan Buselmeier
Invitation – Andy Dobbs
Closing Prayer – David Johnson

December 29 Evening Song & Scripture Service

Upcoming Assignments

December	Communion	Cleaning
15	Sammons	Dorn, Irvin, Williams, Griffing
22	C. Stewart	Foxworthy, German, Jones, Stewart

Quotes On Service

“When we replace a sense of service and gratitude with a sense of entitlement and expectation, we quickly see the demise of our relationships, society, and economy.” — Steve Maraboli

“I would never want to reach out someday with a soft, uncallused hand—a hand never dirtied by serving—and shake the nail-pierced hand of Jesus.” — Bill Hybels

“Dedicate some of your life to others. Your dedication will not be a sacrifice. It will be an exhilarating experience because it is an intense effort applied toward a meaningful end.” — Thomas Dooley



Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.

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Send any articles for the bulletin to Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com

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Covington Church of Christ

9441 Bypass, P.O. Box 768, Covington, GA30015 --- [770] 787-1119

Elders: Dan Buselmeier, Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain

Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,

Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

December 8, 2013

Violent People and Things

1. Who pelted King David with stones while telling him what a violent king he was?
2. Who carried a staff that was as big as a weaver's beam?
3. Who slew a thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey?
4. What king was critically wounded by Philistine arrows?



Disconnected Dads

By Rusty Miller

Many years ago, there was a blues song called “Motherless Children.” But there is cause to wonder, if a similar song were written today, if it might not be called “Fatherless Children.”

First, there is the growing trend among successful (as the world counts success) women in their late 30's and early 40's to raise children without fathers. Then there are those who are fathers only biologically, refusing to take responsibility for their sinful lifestyles. And there are the great number of children deprived of fathers by divorce.



[Disconnected Dads](#)

Continued

However, the most disturbing trend of all is the one which has fathers taking a “hands off” approach to their children. These fathers live in the home, but they refuse to connect with their children. Some have an old, macho “children are women’s work” mentality, but many others are just disconnected from their families. It may be their jobs, their hobbies or their friends, but they allow something to keep them from interacting with their families. The fact that this trend also impacts so many kids in the Lord’s church makes it important for us to discuss.

The disconnected father is not the model found in scripture. In fact, the bulk of instruction given on raising children is given to fathers. There is the responsibility of husbands and fathers to provide for their families (1 Tim. 5:8), but there is so much more, and frankly, too many men think their responsibilities toward their children end with earning a paycheck.

God urges fathers concerning their children, *“bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4)*. It is easily recognized that mothers generally spend far more time with their children than do fathers, but that does not diminish the role God designed for men. God expects the father to be active in the spiritual nourishing of his children. How can we so easily see that neglecting the physical needs of children is condemned, yet we think somehow we can be right in the eyes of God while not providing for them spiritually?

How do fathers “connect” with their children? Time. There is no replacement for spending time with children, if we expect to have any influence in their lives. And while we might be expected to focus on the spiritual, we also recognize the importance of “connecting” on a social level, and that can be time spent at children’s ball games or music recitals, or it could be time spent with a child on Dad’s favorite hobby or the child’s favorite hobby. The point is, make sure your children know you are interested in their lives.

What happens to the children of disconnected fathers? First, when they reach their teen years, when children need more freedom and tend to push things, they are angered by fathers who now seek to set rules, to enact punishment for rule-breaking or to interact in their lives. They don’t understand why this man who has never been involved on a “hands on” basis in their lives, should now be the one to whom they answer as they approach adulthood. God said, *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger” (Ephesians 6:4)*, and *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart” (Colossians 3:21)*. Isn’t this exactly what we do when we live disconnected from our children, only to try and “step in” when we think they need correction?

Another difficult problem for these children is in developing a faith in God which is theirs. They are not interested in the faith which has given them such a father, so they reject it. Unfortunately, if Dad’s view of the “instruction of the Lord” is again, one of provider (“I took them to church every Sunday!”), they may reject the salvation of God based on Dad’s poor representation of it. *Psalm 127:3* says, *“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord.”* What a dreadful position to be in on the Day of Judgment if God has to point to children who have rejected Him and ask us, “What did you do with My gift?”

It is far better that we should be the kind of fathers who are connected with our children, and who live our spirituality before them and teach them of God’s way. That is what Moses instructed for the fathers of his day (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Exodus 12:21-28). God never intended for us to live disconnected from our children, because He has entrusted us with their souls.



Answers from page 1

1. Shimei [2 Samuel 16:5-8]
2. Goliath [1 Samuel 17:7]
3. Samson [Judges 15:15]
4. Saul [1 Samuel 31:3]

