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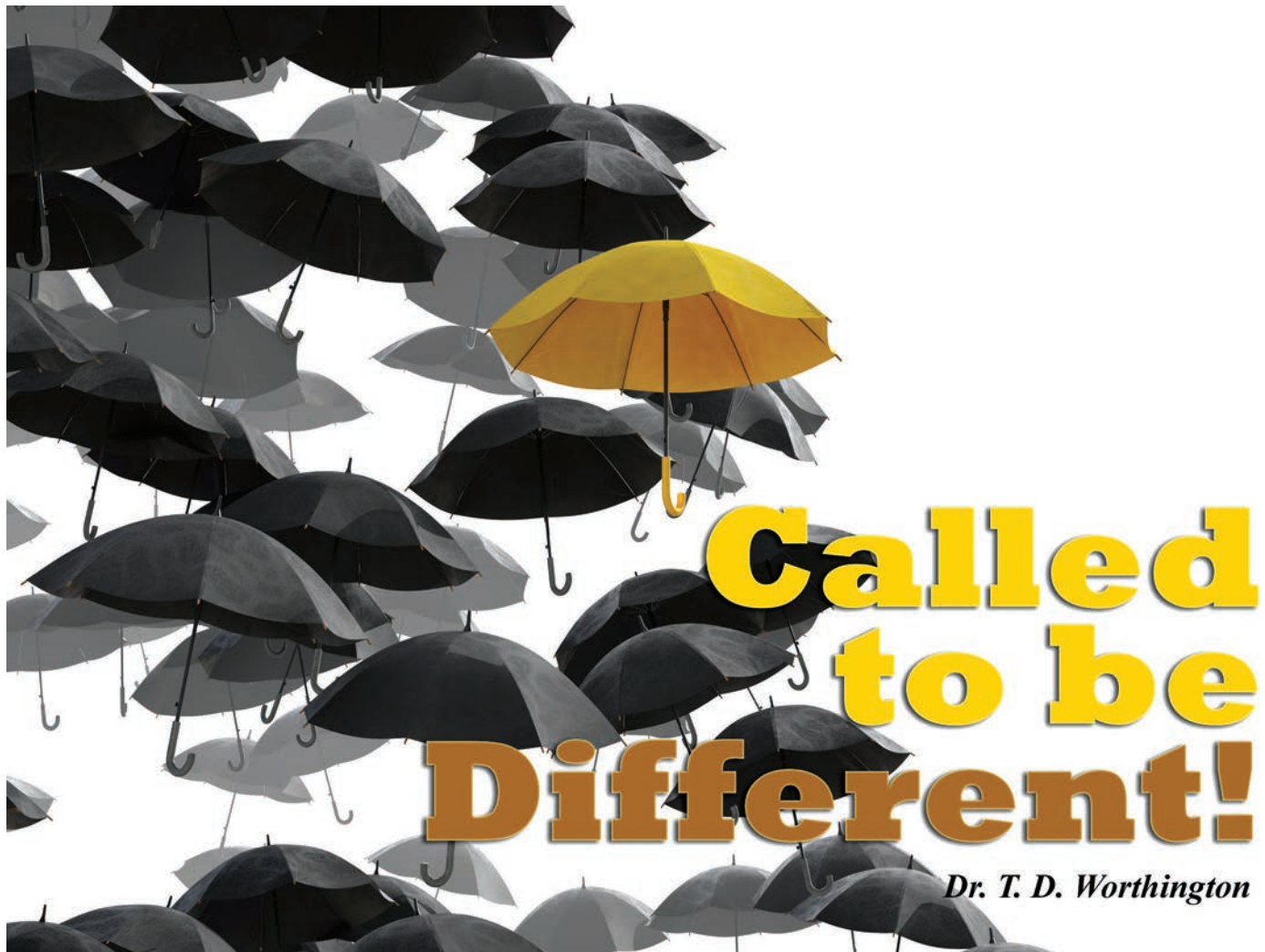
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# Called to be Different!

*Dr. T. D. Worthington*

As a young Christian, I once asked an old pastor to explain the doctrine of separation from the world. The old man pondered for a minute and said, “You will never understand it while you are in the world, and if you get out of the world you won’t need anyone to explain it.” His words were true. There are some things that are difficult to understand until you back away and take an objective look.

You won’t read very far in the New Testament without becoming aware of some very pointed warnings to God’s children concerning the danger from the world around them.

***“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.”***

**I Corinthians 6:17**

***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”***

**I John 2:15-17**

***“...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”***

**James 4:4**

Until recently, most Christians took these passages of Scripture very seriously. They also remembered and considered the sad words of Paul concerning Demas:

***“...Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”***

**II Timothy 4:10**

***Why is Christian Separation Such an Important Doctrine?***

Over the years many just assumed that preachers who brought messages on Biblical separation were legalist who just didn’t want people to have any fun. I am sure on occasion that assessment may have been true; however, the real reasons go far deeper. Faithful preachers were concerned about your maturing relationship with God.

***Separating from the World is the Only Way to Really Know Christ.***

This world is an evil place, and our Lord taught us the closer you are to this darkened world, the further you will be from His glorious light. On the night before his crucifixion, at the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples,

***“Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more, but ye see me.”***

**John 14:19**

What an astounding statement for Jesus to make. He was certainly not just speaking about His resurrection appearances. He was also telling them the deeper they were in the world the less they would experience His manifestation in their life. Paul would offer a similar statement to the Corinthian believers regarding God’s clear manifestation as a Father to separated believers.

***“... be ye separate, saith the Lord . . . and I will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters. . .”***

**I Corinthians 6:17-18**

Years ago, separation from the world was a defining characteristic of the true church. But in this modern era there seems to be very little distinction between the church and the world, ***and Jesus will not reveal Himself to the world.*** He will not reveal Himself through the world’s music, message, entertainment, or through the world’s styles or standards. God has set His people apart for His kingdom purposes, to be instruments of change. We are here to make a difference in the world.

Instead, a lot of churches seek to entangle and mimic the world. As a result, a lot of Christians have allowed themselves to conform to the world’s values and character. In my opinion, many young people have never attended a church service that was not heavily influenced by the world.

So, when those without Christ face a crisis and look for something different

from the trappings of an empty world, they find no source of hope in the church. We were meant to embody the difference they seek. But today the lost and hurting see our lives as no different from their own. Our marriages, finances, and families are just as messed up as theirs.

***Worldly Christians Will Never Influence The World For Christ.***

When we become like the world, we lose all our power to influence the world. Our God is a God of distinguishing separations. It seems important to God that we see the clear divisions between certain things. God makes such divisions throughout the Bible. At the Creation, He separated light from darkness and day from night. He separated Israel from all other nations. In the New Testament, He commands his church, ***“Come out from among them and be ye separate.”*** At the last day there will be a separation of the wheat from the tares, the saved from the lost, and the sheep from the goats. Throughout His Word, God is constantly drawing lines of distinction saying, ***“Do not be confused, this is one thing and this is another.”*** This is a vitally needed message if we are to influence the world.

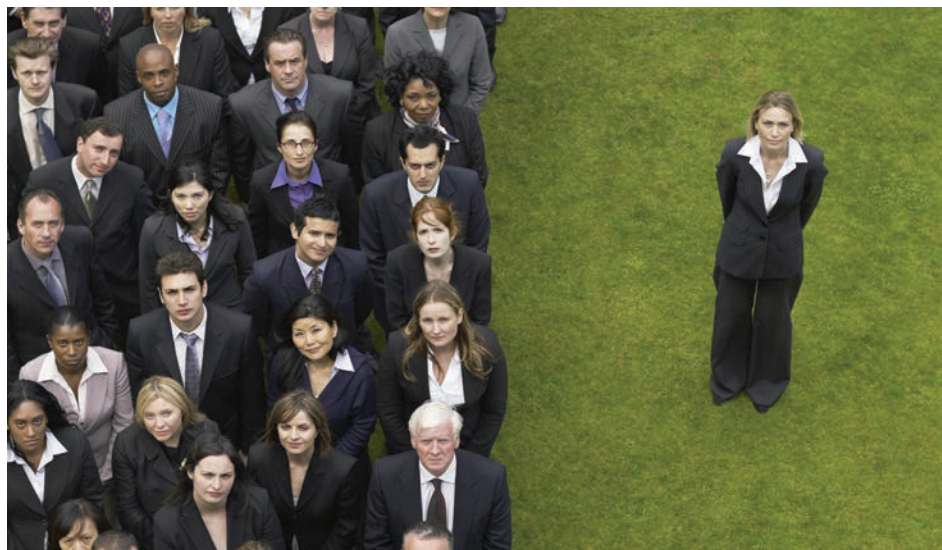
***Worldly Christians Will Have Few Personal Convictions.***

Worldly Christians will have few personal convictions in their life. Their standards of modesty, their preference of music, their favorite movies, and even the jokes they find amusing will often mimic the world. There was a time when restaurants could always distinguish the ***“church crowd”*** during Sunday lunch by the way they were dressed. Today, those differences are more difficult to see. I am not saying that casual attire is wrong; I am just stating there was a time when Christians wanted to look different. Putting on our ***“Sunday best”*** was just as much a part of our worship as singing a hymn or picking up our Bible. Simply put, you will always have fewer absolutes in your life as you sink deeper into the world. Worldly Christians have few real convictions, and the few they have will evaporate as time passes.

***“O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away”***

**Hosea 6:4**

*(Continued on next page.)*





In these words God said He did not know what to do with Israel because their good convictions did not last long, but they quickly disappeared like the morning dew.

Consider the children of Israel. When they were led through the Red Sea, they sang praises to the Lord. Yet, in just three short days, they forgot His works and began to murmur and complain. Lot's wife may have left Sodom, but something yearning in her heart was drawing her to look back. Abraham obeyed God by leaving his home in Ur, but he later found the appeal of worldly Egypt hard to resist.

#### ***Why Do Their Convictions Fade?***

That brings us back to our original point. Since worldly Christians don't see a clear manifestation of the real Christ, they do not dwell on the riches of His grace. Therefore, they may be more impressed with a new car than with Christ. They may be more overwhelmed if they get to meet a movie star than they are in spending time with the God of the universe. Only seeing the uniqueness of Christ can draw you to Him. As you begin to see the glory, beauty, and love of

Christ, you will never want to go back to the world. That is what the old preacher was trying to tell me!

Furthermore, the worldly Christian does not have a real hatred for sin. The convictions they had were only about the generalities of sin, but not the filthiness of it. They lose sight of what nailed Christ to the cross. They didn't really see anything wrong with some of their old sins. They had no change of heart. The Holy Spirit is not in control of their lives. Therefore, their convictions soon fade away like a morning cloud. In times of temptation, their convictions easily disappear.

#### ***So, Why is There So Little Separation Today?***

Why is there so little separation from the world by the church today? One reason is there's very little call for separation. When a pastor preaches holiness, he's seen as old school, negative, and legalistic.

But perhaps the deeper reason is that most people "just don't get it." The message will go over the head of worldly Christians. The Holy Spirit will have to bring deep conviction,

and they will have to be receptive to His message. Again, I remind you that you will not see a clear manifestation of Christ if you are entangled by the world. However, as you separate from the world you will begin to truly behold God's glory; and once you behold His glory, you will gladly separate yourself from anything less. Since worldly Christians know very little about God's glory, the world can be very appealing.

So, why should you separate yourself from the world? There may be many reasons to flee from the kingdom of darkness and the god of this world, but perhaps the best reason is that Jesus said: *"The world won't see me, but you will."* The deeper you are entangled with the world the less manifestation of Christ you will be privileged to see.

Let me warn you today, if you are careless in your separation from the world, you will become more and more worldly. You will have fewer and fewer convictions. You will have less knowledge of Christ. You will have less manifestations of His peace. You will have less and less of an impact for the Kingdom. You will steadily grow less holy in your day to day life, and your moral compass will become less accurate the longer you sojourn in the world.

***Remember, we were called to be different.***



***Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.***

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Ready or not, here comes summer! We like summer around here. We get to wear our sunglasses, sip some lemonade, and give away free music. That's right. It's a **SonShine Summer** here at **GoMix Christian Radio**, and **Free Music Fridays** are on the way! Summer officially begins Monday, June 20th, and so does our **89 Days of Summer** countdown. We have free music and other goodies to give away each and every Friday to our listeners. Have your phone ready



and your ears tuned in to **GoMix Christian Radio!**

Although it will soon be summer and many like to relax, don't let the lemonade fool you. We'll be hard at work providing you with the best Christian programming around. If you haven't done so yet, make sure you take a look around at [www.gomixradio.org](http://www.gomixradio.org). While there, you can find out about news and weather updates, take a look at our coverage area, share prayer requests, meet local ministries and businesses, learn about volunteer opportunities, and see the staff behind the scenes.

We're planning on an exciting summer here at **Gomix Christian Radio**, and we're thankful for

those of you who'll be right there with us. (*The summer months can often be trying as giving tends to decrease due to vacations and other activities.*) As always, any support from our *Faith Partners* is greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance, and here's to wishing you a **SonShine Summer!**

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## A Lesson From Alexander The Great

He was called Alexander the Great. Born in 356 BC in Macedonia, he was the son of King Philip II and Olympias, the princess of Epirus. First fighting in battles at the age of 16, by the age of 18, he took charge of the Champion Calvary. From there, young Alexander went on to conquer most of the known world by the age of 25. To this day, Alexander the Great is believed by some to be the most brilliant military leader and powerful ruler of all time.

There is a story that circulates about an encounter between Alexander and a young soldier. It's said that Alexander walked through the army campground one night because he couldn't sleep. While walking about, he came across a soldier that was supposed to be standing guard but had fallen asleep instead. A severe penalty in those days! Sleeping on the job would get you killed, a stiff and quick punishment and an example to others to avoid doing the same.

As the young soldier awoke and saw his fearless leader standing tall in front of him, he rose to his feet, all the while quivering with fear as he knew judgement would soon come. Alexander could see the fear in the lad before him and had pity on him. Alexander asked the boy what his name was and he replied, "My name is Alexander, sir."

Immediately Alexander the Great replaced his pity with anger and said, "Soldier, either change your name or change your conduct."

Many dispute whether this story is true or not, and it really doesn't matter. There is still a lesson to be learned. As Christians, we carry the name of Christ. We are to be an example, or rather a mirror-like image, of Jesus Christ with our words and actions. When you look in the mirror, do you see Christ? When you talk to your co-workers, are you speaking in a Christ-like manner? How about the attire you plan to wear this summer? Will you be reflecting Christ? Maybe now is a good time to change your conduct.

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# What A Father!

*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*

God is so awesome! He is majestic, powerful, and all-knowing, along with so many other attributes. Isn't it interesting out of the many things we could call Him, He prefers "Father." Why would God use the term "Father" to describe Himself? Why does He call us His children? Why does He want us to call Him Father?

As a child I was blessed with a great father. I am still blessed to have my father with me. My father has always been my hero. I have admired him all of my life and still do. Although he is not perfect, he helped me to relate to a Heavenly Father Who is.

My father is dependable. No matter what happened, I knew he would be there. I never had to worry if my father was going to do what he said he would

do. Sometimes I wished he would forget when unpleasanties were involved. If he promised to take me somewhere, we went. If he promised to discipline me, he did not forget.

My father is trustworthy. Along with being dependable, I never knew him to lie. I could believe in him. Sometimes I did not understand why he did things, but I knew I could trust him. When I was a young child, there were many times I just had to trust my dad, much like jumping into his arms. I knew he would catch me. I always knew he would never hurt me intentionally. I had complete faith in my father.

My father provided for his family. Honestly, both of my parents worked hard to take care of our family. We never went hungry, nor did we lack

for shelter. My parents provided for our needs and many of our wants. We were not rich in the material sense of the word, but we were rich in many other ways.

My father was a disciplinarian. He maintained order in the home. My mom was not one to say, "Wait till your father gets home." She dealt with things as they came up, but I still dreaded Dad coming home if I had messed up. She didn't have to say it. You know the old adage--this will hurt me more than it hurts you. Well, I heard that more than once. *I never understood it until I had children of my own.* My Dad had a way of looking at you that made you feel bad. I could feel his disappointment. I would rather have had a spanking than one of his talks. I was one of those children who

did not want to displease her father. His disappointment broke my heart.

My father is a loving, forgiving father. I have never once doubted his love for me. I knew there was nothing I could do that would cause him not to love me. His merciful and tender heart has caused him pain many times. He is the kind of man who sheds a tear when he watches a sad movie or watches scenes from the Holocaust. My Dad wanted to fix the world.

My father is a good role model. He is someone who anyone could look up to and emulate. He is a patient and kind man, yet he will protect his family whenever necessary. I guess that would make him brave, too.

Most importantly, my father is a Godly man. He has been faithful to serve God since I can remember. My parents had me in church when I was only a few days old. Over the years I never asked the question, *“Are we going to church today?”* I knew the answer to that one. If I wasn’t sick, we went to church. Actually, my parents not only went to church, but they actively served in the church. They were not just observers.

I believe going to church faithfully is very important, but even more important than attending church was the fact that my father lived it at home. My father did not watch things on television that he shouldn’t, use inappropriate language, listen to ungodly music, or go places he shouldn’t go. My mother didn’t, either, for that matter. They lived what I was being taught on Sunday.

You can see why God uses the term father to describe Himself. He is the perfect father. Our Heavenly Father is



dependable as well as a provider. We know as his children, He will provide for our every need. No matter what we are going through, our Heavenly Father is always there.

Our Heavenly Father has written many promises in His Word. He keeps every one of them. He will never leave us nor forsake us. We can trust that whatever we are going through, He is there to walk with us. Even when we don’t understand what God is doing in our lives, we can trust that it is for our good.

I know my Heavenly Father loves me because He disciplines me. He has taken me to the Heavenly woodshed many times. He wraps His arms around me and tells me how I have hurt the kingdom with my actions. My heart grows convicted when I hurt or disappoint Him. I mentioned the talks that I did not enjoy earlier. I don’t enjoy God’s at all-until the chastening

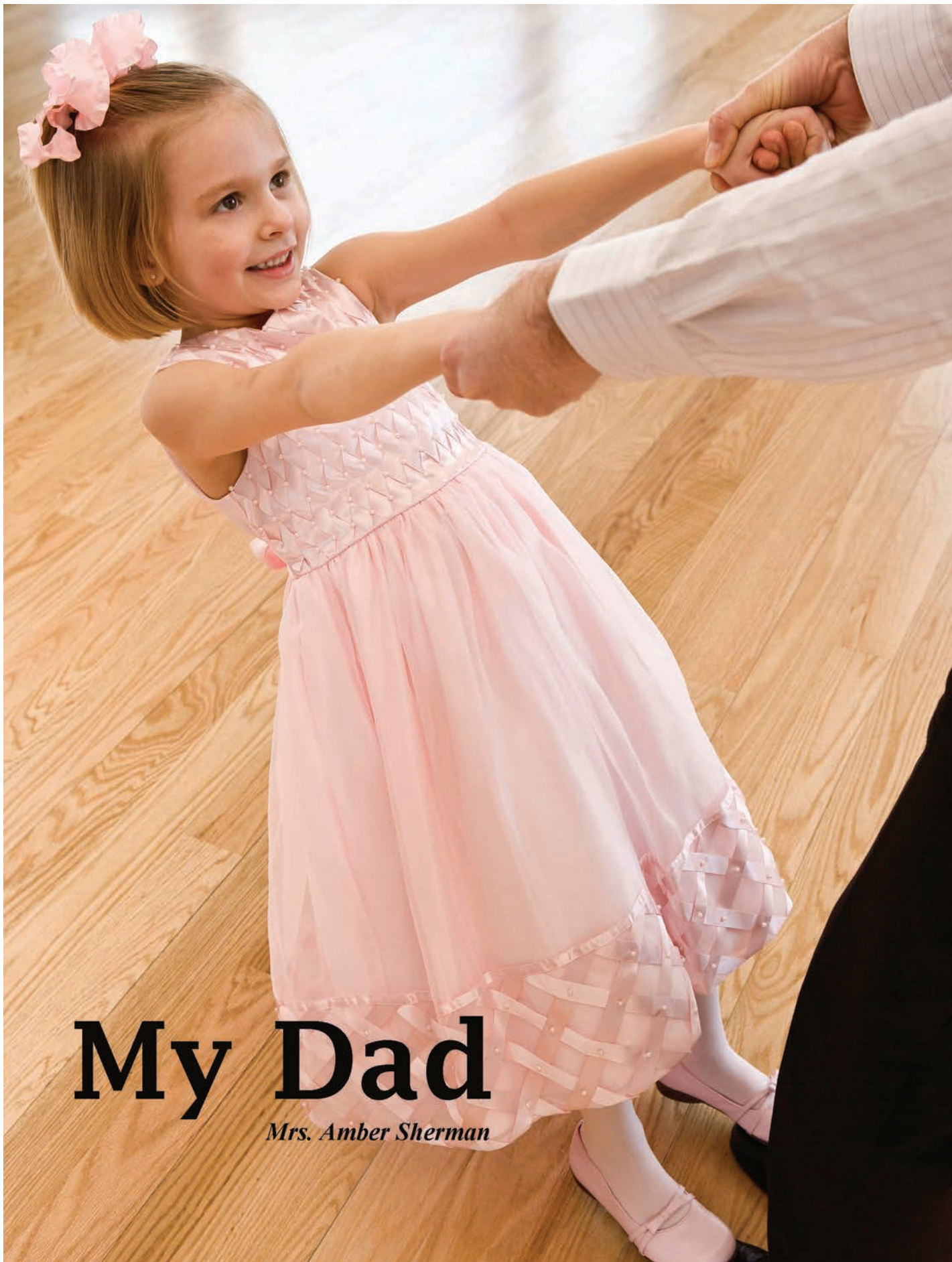
is over. My Heavenly Father is so forgiving. He forgave all of my sins when I accepted Jesus Christ. The best part is, I am still forgiven even though I continually mess up.

My Heavenly Father is faithful. He is faithful to love, to forgive, to discipline, to provide, to be trustworthy, to be an example, and to keep His Word.

A perfect father needs children to nurture and care for. He needs children to fellowship with and love. The perfect God in Heaven has chosen those of us who accept His Son to be called His children. What a privilege to call Him *“Father”!*



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and eight grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*



# My Dad

*Mrs. Amber Sherman*



What do I think of when I think of my dad?

I think of love. It wasn't in his arms, though they gave great comfort and hugs. It was in his eyes. They could look at me with such love I could be stopped short in wonder that it could be so deep.

I think of gentleness. My dad's greatness wasn't in how tough he was. It was in how gentle, kind, and tender that very tough man could be.

I think of one who taught me the meaning of hard work and a job done well, not halfway. I remember doing jobs over, because they were not right. Now I have a strong belief in giving my best to all that I do.

I think of one who loved my mother with his whole heart. That's the best gift he ever gave me. And she loved him right back. To this day, they give me a gift that keeps giving. I owe a debt for the security and soundness they gave to me. They loved each other and us kids more than they loved themselves.

I think of a man. Not a male, but a man. His word was his life, not a mere whisper of the wind. I think of a man who wouldn't make a promise to me because he knew he would die trying if he made it. He did tell me he would do his very best, and that was enough. Being a man meant doing what you said, working hard, caring for your family, and living by principles, no matter how tough life became to follow them.

I think of a man who taught me to fear and respect those in authority over you. That's a lost message today. He taught me to show respect to him and my



mother especially. There's no order in the home without those.

I think of laughter. I think of the silly jokes and sayings, nonsense songs, and funny antics. I think of his ready smile and witty comebacks. His laughter was so special in our home that I wanted a husband who would also influence our home with humor. Lightness and cheerfulness go such a long way in shaping the culture of a family.

I think of his practicality and non-coddling. I was not his princess to spoil and ruin for the next generation. I was his daughter in training to be a lady one day. I remember one day saying, "Dad, I'm in a bad mood, and I can't get out of it." He said, "Get over it" and shrugged his shoulders to say that was that. He said it is a decision. You must make one. Reality hit me, I chose to take control, and kicked that mood right out the door. That was a

valuable life lesson. I am so glad he did not coddle me.

I think of a protector. He joked of meeting boys at the door with a shot-gun, but I knew he was only half joking. He also cared enough about me to help my mom see how girls should and should not dress. He knew how the male mind works, and he didn't want men and boys looking at his wife and daughters in lust. I am so glad he taught me that. I was clueless.

I think of a man unchanging and unmovable in his convictions and principles. He based them upon the Word of God and didn't change them since God's Word didn't either.

I think of family discussions around the kitchen table at meal time. This helped us kids know the Biblical and moral way to view what was going on in our world. I also have some special memories of Biblical talks with my dad while we sat on the carpet, going over some of my questions from the Word of God. It was more special than family discussions because it was just him and me. It's important to have individual time with



your kids. They'll remember those times more than anything.

I think of a man who preached the Word faithfully Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night. He invests 6-8 hours for a message; that's a lot of dedication each week. He has done it faithfully all my life. He doesn't just study. He prays for his people and loves them deeply. Only a shepherd can do that. God has His anointed, and that's why we listen to them. They love with a profound love no one else can

understand. So go to church, and try to listen and be there. Your one hour probably cost him six. Statistically, the physical toll of delivering a sermon is the equivalent to working an eight hour day. "Preacher kids" know this to be true by how tired our fathers are after preaching.

I think of a man who still holds such a powerful place in my heart and my life, though I am now married with children of my own.

I love my dad. I loved him then, and I love him now more and more. Thank you dad, for all you did for me. Most of all thank you for loving God with all your heart. It shows in your eyes, too.

I hope to know God one day in the same way you do.

Thanks, dad.

I love you.



*Mrs. Amber Sherman is the mother of three boys. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Snow Hill, NC.*

# And Finally...



## Memories With Cousins...

*We spent many summer vacations traveling by camper around the west coast with our family, aunts, uncles, and cousins. These wonderful opportunities to be with our cousins have provided many of the great and amazing memories of my childhood. My cousins and I were very close friends growing up. That closeness can still be felt today at those rare moments when we are all together. One such memorable trip was to Flaming Gorge and river rafting the Green River. Oh wow, we kids had fun! We would fish along the banks of the river as we anxiously awaited for our turns to ride. These were wonderful times we spent together in nature and great opportunities to build friendships.*

**J. M.**

*Freely my cousin and I roamed the neighborhoods as little boys. We spent many hours chasing frogs, catching snakes, and jumping our bike across the canals. We were free to roam and explore with little risk. We would spend the weekends together chasing through the fields for miles on end, walking to the local movie theater, and climbing trees. Life was simple, grand, and quite the adventure. I like to compare our adventures to those of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. We were always exploring and finding new adventure. We would be gone from sunup to sundown just having fun doing what little boys do.*

**D. E.**

*I remember trips to the beach in my aunt's station wagon with my cousins. One cousin and I would sit in the back and make silly faces at the drivers in the cars behind us. We would lip sing to popular songs of the day and pretend we were movie stars with a bed as a stage and a fake flower or hairbrush as a microphone. We had late night talks about nothing, all the while contemplating the mysteries of the universe. Though we are not close now and some have even passed on, those memories still remain fresh and are thought of with a smile.*

**T. J.**

## “My Thriftshop Bargain”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

National Thriftshop Day is in August! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about a bargain you've found. The deadline for submission is June 20th, 2016.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe  
wago@gomixradio.org  
Or write to: Pathway Ministries  
PO Box 1895  
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