**These Perilous Times**

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**“Reflecting God Our Father”**

**A little history**

 **“**Father’s Day” is a holiday honoring fatherhood and paternal bonds as well as the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic countries of Europe, it has been celebrated on March 19 as “Saint Joseph’s Day” since the “Middle Ages.” Our nation’s first Father’s Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910 in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972-58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made “Mother’s Day” official that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

Perhaps, you may be familiar with the cliché, *“he’s a chip off the old block.*” It is an interesting idiom that is used to refer to someone who is similar to their parents (especially fathers) who were very influential. It also, refers to people who possess the same qualities, or perhaps share the same thought processes.

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 Jesus wants us to reproduce His character to the world. Notice the words of John “the beloved,” speaking of John the Baptist.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. *This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light*, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light*, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”* John 1: 6-8 NKJV (Italics supplied)

 We’ve all been influenced by our earthly parents, and have adopted many of their habits and behaviors (good and bad). We are instructed by God to honor our parents (Ex. 20:12). However, when push comes to shove, we are to: “…be imitators of God as dear children (Eph. 5:11).

 Paul admonishes us to, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5).

“Jesus said unto him… (Phillip) he who has seen Me has seen the Father…” John 14:9

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

**(Character Formation)**

“Every act of life, however unimportant, has its influence in forming the character. A good character is more precious than worldly possessions, and the work of forming it is the noblest in which men can engage.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

 “…As fire reveals the difference between, gold, silver and precious stones and wood, hay, and stubble, so the day of judgment will test characters showing the difference between characters formed after Christ’s likeness and characters formed after the likeness of a selfish heart.” [[2]](#footnote-2)

 “…Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ.” [[3]](#footnote-3)

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” John 12:32 NKJV

“…Our FATHER which art in Heaven HALOWED be THY Name.” Matt. 6:9 KVV



1. E. G. White. Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 657. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. White. Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 2, p. 548. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. p. 549. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)