

FATHERS — MAKE THE MOST OF LIFE ... NOW AND LATER

CARPE DIEM
SEIZE THE DAY, PLUCK THE FRUIT



PLUCK THE FRUIT OF
THE DAY WITH THOSE
YOU LOVE BUT DON'T
FORGET ABOUT
TOMORROW

1. MAKE THE MOST OF LIFE UNDER THE SUN WHILE MAINTAINING A VIEW PAST THE SUN.

a. Carpe diem—seize the day, pluck the fruit.

Carpe diem is a well-known Latin phrase popularized by Robin Williams in the movie *The Dead Poets Society* as “seize the day.” However, those who are more interested in literal accuracy tell us that “carpe” translates literally as “pluck” as in plucking a grape from the vine or an apple from a tree. Our scholars would say a more accurate interpretation is “enjoy the day, pluck the day when it is ripe.” The extended version of the phrase “carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero” translates as “pluck the day, trusting as little as possible in the future.”

- (Ecclesiastes 2:24 ESV) There is **nothing better** for a person than that he should **eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil**. This also, I saw, is **from the hand of God**.
- (Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 ESV) I perceived that there is **nothing better** for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should **eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man**.
- (Ecclesiastes 3:22 ESV) So I saw that there is **nothing better** than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?
- (Ecclesiastes 8:15 ESV) And I commend joy, for man has **nothing better under the sun** but to **eat and drink and be joyful**, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of **his life that God has given him under the sun**.

b. But don’t live like a fool.

c. Live like a wise person.

d. Make the most of the time.

- (Ephesians 5:15–16 NLT) So be careful how you live. **Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise.** 16 **Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.**
- (Psalm 90:12 ESV) So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

2. LOVE YOUR WIVES AND FAMILIES UNDER THE SUN.

a. Enjoy life—God approves, 9:7-8.

- (Ecclesiastes 9:7–8 ESV) **Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.** 8 Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

b. Our appearance should reflect our enjoyment of life.

c. Enjoy life with your wife (and the family) you love, 9:9.

- (Ecclesiastes 9:9 ESV) **Enjoy life with the wife whom you love**, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, **because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.**

d. Enjoy life with the wife you love for all your days under the sun.

e. See—open your eyes—and embrace the person who is your wife.

f. This is your portion in life and work under the sun.

g. Marriage is a blessing of life under the sun and ends at death.

- (Matthew 22:30 ESV) **For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage**, but are like angels in heaven.
- h. The family produced by marriage is a blessing of life under the sun and ends at death.

We must have a biblical perspective of family life under the sun because any approach to life that is not based on accurately handling the word of truth obscures the truth and distorts our view of life both under the sun and past the sun and hinders our fellowship with and service to the Lord. **We are set free and made holy by the truth, not sentiments.**

- (John 8:31–32 NLT) Jesus said to the people who believed in him, **“You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**
 - (John 17:17 NLT) **Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.**
- i. Enjoy life and throw yourself into your work with your might, 9:10.
- (Ecclesiastes 9:10 ESV) **Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.**
 - (Colossians 3:23 ESV) **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord** and not for men,
- j. Live the life you have been given with gusto and zest because when you “go to the dead” it is all gone.

3. LOVE YOUR WIVES IN CHRIST WHILE MAINTAINING A VIEW PAST THE SUN.

- a. Love your wives as Christ loved the church, Ephesians 5:25-27.
- (Ephesians 5:25–27 ESV) **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- i. Enjoy/see your wife for who she is.
 ii. Give yourself up for your wife.
 iii. Bless your wife with the word of God.

- iv. Have the same goal as God for your wife.
- b. Love your wives as you love yourself, Ephesians 5:28.
- (Ephesians 5:28 ESV) **In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.** He who loves his wife loves himself.
- c. Be one flesh with your wives, Ephesians 5:31.
- (Ephesians 5:31 ESV) **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”**

4. LOVE YOUR CHILDREN IN CHRIST WHILE MAINTAINING A VIEW PAST THE SUN.

- (Ephesians 6:4 ESV) Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 - (Colossians 3:21 ESV) Fathers, **do not provoke** [aggravate (NLT), embitter (NIV)] your children, lest they become discouraged.
- a. Enjoy/see your children for who they are, cf. Ecclesiastes 9:9.
- b. Do your best to not provoke, aggravate or embitter your children.
- c. Always bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord even though that is what sometimes provokes them.
- d. Be quick to confess your failures to them and before God.
- e. Trust in God’s forgiveness and also in his cleansing.
- (1 John 1:9 ESV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

When God forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness, he purifies our lives which will in turn purify our parenting.

- f. God will build up our lives in humility when we fail—and we will fail.
- g. Humble ourselves and live in God’s grace and do not be overcome by our pride.
- (James 4:6 ESV) But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**