

## E-Series

### Fathers' Footsteps



*"1 Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, 3 "so you will live well and have a long life." 4 Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. **Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.** —Ephesians 6:1-4 (The Message)*

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Yesterday morning, as I was getting dressed, Drew ambled over to the shoes I was about to put on. Normally, things instantly gravitate to his mouth (teething is tough), but, this time he didn't start gnawing on my shoe. Instead, he put his little hand on my

knee, picked up his chubby little foot, and put it inside my shoe. He did the same with the other foot. Then, he tried to walk.

I remember Ellie doing the same thing with her mother's shoes, just like I did with my dad's shoes—particularly his work boots.

It reminded me of one of the many sappy e-mails that I have received over the years. The story is of a little boy and his father going out after a fresh snow. They get all dressed up in their winter gear and go for a walk in the woods.

After a little while the son starts to tire and lag a little. The father looks back to see his son leaping from one of his footprints to another. He asks his son, "What are you doing?"

"Coming right behind you, Dad, so be careful where you step."

It might be sappy, but it is very true. Our children are following in our footsteps. Like I commented on Sunday, this is true for biological fathers, but it's also true for every adult man and woman in the church. We have made promises to the children we have baptized. We have covenanted with God to live our lives in front of the children of the church in such a way that we will, in the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians, "take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master." They are following us. The steps we take are showing them the way. The paths we choose, the way we live our lives will either guide them well, or lead them astray.

Clarence Budington Kelland once said of his father, "He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."

Our children are waiting on us.

Watching My Step,  
Pastor Michael