

Father's Day 2016

Fathering... There are many challenges/traps to the definition... *The world says it's the guy who's a kids best friend...* Looks, talk, and actions! Or maybe the guy who's willing to break all of "momma's rules..." Dad is the fun, indulgent, guy! The rebel, free spirit! Bond or Chuck! Or both! ***Maybe, in your culture, dad is just a figurehead...*** Mom really runs the show! Dad provides... Brings home the paycheck! Gets me what I want! But mostly absent/working or living in the man cave/silent! ***Even in a godly culture there can be misunderstandings...*** Dad is the Iron Fist of God! It's "Yes sir. No sir!" All business, no intimacy, little pleasure! *The Final Authority!* We'll judge that at the end!

Fathering... Is difficult in the 21st Century... Challenges, inherent traps and failures... So, it's important that we get our definition from good sources! Because doing it right still comes with a lot of benefits!

Dad's! *Love your wife!* This is the proven #1 stabilizer and influencer for kids! "Love your wives (**Eph 5.25,28**)... be ravished with her (**Pr 5.19,20**)... forsaking all else (**Gen 2.24**)... honoring her as a precious vessel (**1Pet3.7**)..."

"A man loves his children best when he loves their mother most!" *Double blessing #1!*

Asides... If you are divorced you can still engage the precept... "Love" your ex-mate with kindness! Do not disparage them! Your kids see themselves as part of her too! What you say about mom, you say about them! They may treat you poorly, have different rules... but shouldn't change *your good parenting!*

"Flee youthful lusts... **2Tim2.22** "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, noise, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: be kind to one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you... **Eph 4.31,32** *Be followers of God as dear sons!* **Eph 5.1**

Dad's! *Know your "kid!"* No matter how many of them! Each one is an individual that changes thru a lifetime! ***Discover and speak their love language!*** Speak in a way they understand without being like them! And change your approach if it's not working! ***Understand your importance in their lives!*** (*There is a father shortage in the world!*) **Proverbs 17.6** "Your children's children are a crown to you in your old age *and the glory of those children are their father's!*" Dad's bring blessing on their children... **1Kings 11.13** (even when they don't do well) **15.4,5** Hone your skills! **Proverbs 23.24,25** ***Hone your skills!*** "*the father of righteous children will rejoice greatly, he that fathers a wise child will have joy in him... and she that bare him shall rejoice!*" *That's double blessing #2!* Happy heart and home!

Dad's! *Be honest, transparent and interpretive with them!* Bad friendships/premature love. Quick decisions/long term consequences. Laziness/proper stewardship. Diligent work habits/integrity. Love for God/church/unsaved. Trust based submission/following.

Kids need... *Loving Instruction...* *The whole Kingdom of God is based on the principles of one generation transmitting God's truth to the next!* ***Loving Correction...*** "Children without correction are illegitimate children!" **Heb 12.8** ***Modeling of love and life in God...***

Who was this? "Her parents exercised a profound effect upon the development of her character and laid the foundations for who she was. What she witnessed in her family home, she practiced for herself — dependence on God in every circumstance, love for his word, concern for others above self, and an indomitable spirit displayed with a smile." Ruth Graham!

Dad's! Most Important! *We must live the life we have been given in God...* You can leave behind your money and possessions... and they will last for a time... Or you can leave behind the legacy of

relationship with God
that engenders true life for them!

The Epitome... “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me: *but it’s not my determination, choice or desire that’s central here, it’s Yours!*” **Luke 22.42** Any dad who wants to leave behind the “material” that will serve their kids for a lifetime...! Will teach, “Not my will, but God’s will, child!”

The Epitome... Even the best of dad’s... The most exercised in discerning between good and evil... Will never do as good as God! And when we teach our children that He is the Final Authority in *our* lives... And we teach them *to be like us*... Then we have been the best dad!

Father's Day Prayer: “Father, let it be that I do nothing of myself... but that in all things, especially my parenting, I do what I see You doing, and say what I hear You saying, so that in the end my child is not of my making, but Yours!”