

The Importance of Fathers

Judges 2:6-10

- It's good to be a man, isn't it, men? "Why?" you women may be asking?
- 1: Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.
- 2: A 5-day holiday requires only one suitcase.
- 3: When clicking through the channels, you don't have to stall at every shot of somebody crying.
- 4: Guys in hockey masks don't attack you ... unless you're playing hockey.
- 5: Michael Bolton doesn't live in your universe.
- 6: Car mechanics tell you the truth.
- 7: You can admire Clint Eastwood without starving yourself to look like him.
- 8: Gray hair and wrinkles only add character to men.
- 9: If another guy shows up at the party in the same outfit, you just might become lifelong buddies.
- 10: The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected.

It's interesting how we have gone from Father Knows Best to the usual sitcom dad that is clueless and out of touch. More and more our society says we don't really need dad in the family. He doesn't add anything to the welfare of the family unit that the mother can't provide.

Even in church settings we often honor moms during Mother's Day and blast dads during Father's Day. Let's be honest, sometimes it's warranted. We dads have failed our families in many instances. However, today I want to look at the positive aspects that fathers bring to the table and Why God might want them as a needed part of the family unit.

Prayer

I. Why Fathers Are Important

A. Leadership

1. Sharon Swing is a leadership trainer. Over her years of experience, she has found that male leaders reflect a leadership style in their companies that has been shaped by how their relationship was with their fathers. It intrigued her to see that the

way the father related to the son often was seen in how the boss related to those under his leadership.

2. **Colossians 3:18–21 (ESV) — 18** Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
3. Passages like this give us an understanding of the father's role leading the family.
4. God expects him to do his job right: be the leader of his home.
5. Paul clearly points out that he isn't to treat his wife or children in a harsh way.
6. In Ephesians 5 he points out that we need to love our wives like Christ loved the church.
7. Fathers have a huge role in leading his family and caring for them as his most cherished charges.
8. We follow God because we know he loves us implicitly and wants the best for us; It should be no different for our earthly fathers

B. Spiritual guidance

1. You can't help but think about passage like **Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV) — 4** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your

hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2. **Proverbs 1:8 (ESV) — 8** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,
3. **Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) — 4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
4. Studies constantly point to the spiritual behavior of the father has a more powerful influence than that of the mother.
5. Dads, please make sure you model and teach your children a deep love for God.
6. Many years ago, my dad was asked to speak about raising spiritual children at a college lectureship. When he asked us kids why we remained faithful we all gave the same answer. Dad lived his faith at home as well as at church. He taught us by his example that faith was more than just mouthing words. That impacted all three of us kids. To this day, all three of us are in ministry families. All of our children are growing up and staying faithful to God so far. Hopefully, because we are modeling the same level of faith as our father showed us.
7. Wouldn't it be awesome if what the Bible says about Joash could be said about us? 2 Ki 18 tells us his son Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...he did in all things as Joash his father had done.
8. When fathers don't teach their faith to their children, Judges gets repeated instead of 2 Ki. A generation grows up who know neither God or all the work he had done for them.

C. Providing for their family

1. In the ancient world, fathers were almost exclusively the providers for the family.
2. Even in cultures where women could provide an income it was much harder for them to do so.
3. In today's America, 2 parent households are far more stable and secure than single parents.
4. Paul states this responsibility pretty bluntly in 1 Tim 5:8 - **1 Timothy 5:8 (NCV) — 8** Whoever does not care for his own relatives,

especially his own family members, has turned against the faith and is worse than someone who does not believe in God.

5. I am not telling you that your job is to give your family everything they want, but to do your best to give them what they need.
6. That includes emotional providing as well as physical
7. It can be a difficult balance those two sometimes, but don't sacrifice your emotional presence in order to provide physical presents.
8. Robert Schuller once said that he chose to fail so he could succeed. He said, "I chose to fail at golf, because I wanted to succeed as a father." Even though he really loved golf, he knew he couldn't put in the adequate time needed to be good at golf, good at

his ministry and good at being a father and husband. So, he gave up golf.

9. You cannot buy your family and their love.
10. Almost always an absent dad in a child's youth will lead to an absent child in the father's old age.

D. You are important

1. In the US today; 40% of kids grow up without a father in their home.
2. Dads, you are so important to the success of your family.
3. You are needed as a provider, mentor, and spiritual advisor.
4. When you are not there, those areas will suffer.
5. In most setting where mom is left alone to raise the family, statistics point to a grim outcome.
 - a) Poverty is higher
 - b) Death is younger
 - c) Higher percentage of the kids end up incarcerated.
6. No matter how much mom tries to pick up the slack, she can't do it all, no matter what TV tries to tell us.
7. Dad's you're important. We need you.

E. Word to the family

1. Family, let me speak to you directly for a little bit.
2. It is easy to take your father for granted, until it too late.
3. Your dad isn't perfect.
 - a) He forgets to pick you up at preschool.
 - b) He does and says bone headed things from time to time.
 - c) He dresses bad, and the list could go on.
4. But please remember he loves you.
5. He tries to do right by you and God.

6. He sacrifices a lot of what he wants to make sure you have what you need and often want.
7. He hopefully is showing you what living an authentic faith looks like.
8. He is trying his best to reflect Christ to you.
9. A world without dads would be a sad place in deed.