



What is a Dad?

A Dad is a person
 Who is loving and kind,
 And often he knows
 What you have on your mind.
 He's someone who listens,
 suggests, and defends
 A dad can be one
 of your very best friends;
 He's proud of your triumphs,
 but when things go wrong,
 A dad can be patient
 and helpful and strong.
 In all that you do,
 a dad's love plays a part
 There's always a place for him
 deep in your heart
 And each year that passes,
 you're even more glad,
 More grateful and proud
 just to call him your dad!
 Thank you Dad...
 for listening and caring,
 for giving and sharing,
 but, especially, for just being you.

-Author Unknown

We are a congregation of
 the Lord's people looking
 for you. We desire to love
 our community and
 neighbors as our Lord has
 taught us to do. Please
 allow us to be an
 encouragement to you as
 you are an encouragement
 to us by visiting with us
 today.

If you have any questions
 about anything you see or
 hear today, please stop
 someone and ask
 questions. We are seeking
 to be New Testament
 Christians, and as such we
 desire to share what we
 have been given. We want
 to be ready to give you an
 answer for what we do and
 say (1 Peter 3:15)

*But sanctify the Lord God in
 your hearts: and be ready
 always to give an answer to
 every man that asketh you
 a reason of the hope that is
 in you with meekness and
 fear:*

Thank you for being
 our Guest today!

What Is a Father?

Randall Caselman

No one—no one!—will have more influence upon our children's future than we parents. Our children and grandchildren know what it takes to make good parents and grandparents. They are smarter than we give them credit for. They know the attitudes we should hold, they know how we ought to behave; they see our faults and our sins. No, they do not expect us to be perfect, but they do expect us to admit our faults and try to become more the person we should be. They are watching... Waiting... Wishing...

F...is for friend. A father is one who is ready to enjoy life with his children. A father is always willing to take whatever time is necessary. Nothing in this life is more important than time spent with our children. Charlie Shedd gives us *"Ten Traits of One Neat Dad"* ...He takes time for me... He listens to me... He plays with me... He invites me to go places with him... He lets me help him... He treats my mother well... He lets me say what I think... He's nice to my friends... He only punishes me when I deserve it... He isn't afraid to admit when he is wrong. One day our children will be grown, and we will regret the times we thought we were too busy to be a neat dad...**right?**

A...is for ally. My father is the best, the strongest, the greatest. That's what our children thought when they were young. No one was a better dad than mine. But as our children grow up, does their attitude change? Are we still the biggest man in their life? When the storms of life come, will we stand beside them, hold their hand, support them with the same strength they thought we had when they were little? I hope we will. Scripture tells us that the fatherhood of God is about always being with us, never leaving us, and His working all things out to our good and benefit. This is what makes Him and us great fathers...**right?**

T...is for trainer. This responsibility belongs to fathers, not the government, the school system, or the church. Paul says, *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up on the training and instruction of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4). Solomon advised, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6). This training must come through more than mere words; it involves the life we live. Our children are watching, listening. They will be influenced by the attitudes we hold and the way we believe...**right?**

H...is for helper and healer. When our spirit was wounded and our heart broken, there was no healing like dad's tender touch. A father is one who helps us over the rough spots. He is the one who taught us to ride a bicycle, skate, ski, fish, and hunt. And when life treated us cruelly, he picked us up, brushed us off, and set us back on the straight and narrow. And he still does... And he still does...**right?**

E...is for encourager. The greatest encouragement any of us will receive is that given by our fathers. His voice can still be heard over others at the ballpark, in the Sunday school class, and on graduation day. For some reason, we want our father to be proud of us and to wish us well. And when he does, it makes our day, our life. Nothing encourages me more than to have my father say, "That was a good sermon." He is the one we strive to please...**right?**

R...is for responsibility and role model. What an awesome responsibility to have a child wanting to be just like you, his father. I suppose that no one is copied early in life any more than fathers...**awesome!** Regardless of all the other responsibilities we may have, none weighs as heavily upon us fathers than this one voiced by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1, *"Follow me and follow Christ"* ...**right?**

Today, our challenge as fathers and grandfathers is to become more like Abraham. May it be said of us as it was said of him in Genesis 18:19, *"I have chosen him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; so that the LORD may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him"* ...**right?**

TWO FATHERS

A young father lived in the State of New York. He was a brilliant lawyer, a university man, but alcohol became his master. Under its influence he beat and all but killed his wife and children.

One day his little boy ran to their minister and said, "Come quick, dad is drunk again."

The minister rushed through the streets with the boy and reached the door of the apartment only to find the woman standing there with a white face. Numbly she muttered the words, "He's dead."

The little boy ran to his mother's side crying, "Mother aren't you glad, aren't you glad?"

Several thousand miles away a man and his small daughter entered a restaurant and quietly found a place to sit. They were not dressed in expensive clothing, nor did he drive a luxury car—yet the love they shared for each other was priceless. They ordered hamburgers while others ordered steaks. The father had received no college degree—written no books, nor had he traveled extensively.

Suddenly his wide-eyed daughter grabbed his hand and said in a voice, loud enough for everyone to hear, "I love you Daddy, more than everything in the world."

A home is truly happy, only when the father wants it to be. Life seems worth living only when the father makes it so.

"When you get what you want in your struggle for self, and the world makes you king for a day, just go to the mirror and look at yourself and see what that man has to say. For it isn't your son or daughter or wife, who judgment upon you must pass. The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life, is the one staring back from the glass. Some people may think you a straight-shootin' chum and call you a wonderful guy. But the man in the glass says you're only a bum, if you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please never mind all the rest, for he's with you clear up to the end; and you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test, if the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years, and get pats on the back as you pass, but your final reward will be heartaches and tears, **"If You've Cheated The Man In The Glass."**

--Selected

This Week's Q&A

Q: How are you doing as a father?

A: Talk to your children and let them answer below. 😊

Kelli's Korner

When my children were babies, I told myself I would never be guilty of saying, "just wait until your dad gets home" when they got into trouble. I always felt that put added pressure on dad and caused him to be looked at in an unnecessary negative way. Well, fast forward 29 years and I can assure you that I ate crow many times! I was a stay-at-home mother of our 3 children and sometimes, especially with our boys, I needed that extra help from dad. With that being said, I tried to handle things on my own when I could so Chris would not be bombarded when he walked in the door. Ladies let's try to encourage our husbands as much as we can with regards to their enormous role as fathers. I know that I was guilty in the past of not realizing how much pressure is truly put on men and all of the responsibilities they have, fatherhood being one of the most important. Contrary to current cultural beliefs, fathers are to be the head of the household, **1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23**; Fathers are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, **Ephesians 5:25**. Fathers are to provide for their families, **1 Timothy 5:8**. Fathers are to be the spiritual leaders at home which will one day allow them to become spiritual leaders in the church, **Proverbs 22:6; 1 Timothy 3:4,5,12; Joshua 24:15**. These are just a few of the verses that express these commands. Fathers have a lot more responsibilities than even the few mentioned here, but can you see how much these could weigh on a man's mind and heart continually? Especially when a man comes to the realization that his guidance can greatly influence the outcome of his whole family for the good or bad. So many times, mothers are viewed as the rock or the glue that holds the marriage together, and usually that is the case. But maybe this is because the fathers are not doing their job adequately or we mothers are not being the supportive counterpart we should be. When men are doing their God given responsibilities as fathers and husbands, their plate is so full they need our loving support and kind words reassuring them that they are doing an amazing job! When men are failing at their responsibilities, they need our prayers, our words of encouragement, our example...NOT our negative words beating them down. We should lift one another up when we are struggling. We all fall short at times. Go tell the father in your home how much you love and appreciate them!!!

Every father should remember one day his son will follow his example, not his advice.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!