

# Fathers: Miracle of a Daddy's Love

## Proverbs 17:6

### Introduction:

1. Not that I am one to complain, but Dads, if you haven't noticed, or did not know, we get the short end of the stick on this Mother's Day, Father's Day business.
2. One little boy had it right when he defined Father's Day this way. *'It's a lot like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much money.'*  
Dads don't seem to get a fair shake.
3. Paul Harvey, famous for *The Rest of the Story* segments, defined a father this way... *"A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic ... A father never feels worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks, never quite the man his son believes him to be, and this worries him, sometimes. So, he works too hard to try and smooth out the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him ... Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough, so they can have grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. Fathers make bets with insurance companies about who will live the longest. One day, they lose, and the bet is paid off to the part of them they leave behind"*
4. Regardless of how you define Father's Day or Fatherhood, there is no denying the fact that he is an important part of the divine institution known as the family.
5. God ordained that the family is the first basic building block of human relationships and ultimately of society as well.
6. God gave men the unique and awesome responsibility of leading and being the backbone of the home.
7. One of the great needs of our day is for men to be more than just mere men, but men of God.
8. If there has ever been a generation that needs some real-life heroes, you can touch -- it is today.
9. If ever there is a generation that needs to be reminded of what a godly man looks like, it is today.
10. This generation needs men to lead the way to the foot of the cross, it is today.
11. It has been said that 'a child is not likely to find a father in God unless they find something of God in his father.
12. The preschool children at a church had been asked to draw and paint a picture of what they thought Jesus looked like. As they were handing in the pictures a little girl was handing in a picture of a man with a suit. The little girl said, *"I really don't know what Jesus looks like, so I just drew my daddy.'*
13. ***Proverbs 17.6: Grandchildren are the crown of aged men, and the glory of children is their fathers (who live Godly lives)***
14. My prayer, often, is that God's grace will cover my many, many mistakes and continue to make me into the man I want to be.
15. I pray that my children will see the good and emulate it, and they will see the bad and love me despite it and guard against it in their lives)

### **Unconditional Love and Support:**

1. If only more fathers would realize how important their role is in their children's lives.
2. The two places they should find that type of unconditional love and support are in the church, but first and foremost, they should find it in the home and should find in their father.
3. I want to talk about a place called Mercy Ministries in Nashville
4. The common denominator that stands out from most of these stories is what Nancy refers to as the "daddy hole"
5. All children have a daddy hole that needs to be filled by a loving father.
6. I can't change your past for you, but I can, if you are willing, help you to sort through that pain today by acknowledging that it is there.
7. I pray that this message will give you hope for tomorrow, and you can move on from that place where you might find yourself today.
8. God has given the father a special ability and influence over his children.
9. Unconditional love is what our Father in heaven has shown us
10. ***John 3.16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.***
11. ***Romans 5.6-8: For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man, though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for***
12. Dads, you have a unique opportunity to speak into your child's life, no matter what their age, and give them part of what they need - God's love through you.

### **Encourage and affirm them:**

1. ***Colossians 3.21 - do not provoke your children to anger/don't exasperate them***
2. As dads, some of us can be very good at this - that is why there is a warning against it.
3. Story of a child who took their time getting home
4. In our attempt to grow them into men and women, which is what we are called to do, we need to remember they can enjoy the journey.
5. We can provoke them to anger by never supporting and affirming, and always correcting - things cannot always be wrong, they must also do some things right and well.
6. As dads, we tend to bring the frustrations, pain, and tension from our work and other problems into our relationships with our children.
7. We can wound them deeply and inflict pain that does not heal and place a weight on their shoulders that they will carry into adulthood.

### **Always be there for them and spend time with them:**

1. For children to know we will always be there for them requires that we give ourselves to them when they are young --- they need to know we want to be with them and enjoy them
2. Dr. James Dobson said, *Love isn't something you buy. Your kids spell it T-I-M-E, and it costs more than M-O-N-E-Y."*

### **Provide for them:**

1. We are to provide for their necessities like food, shelter, and safety.

2. We need to provide them with other things --- good work ethic, proper respect for authority, basic life skills from changing the air filters monthly in a home, cooking, and cleaning, checking the oil and ensuring the car is maintained, and the ability to take care of themselves.
3. The greatest thing we can provide is a clear path to Jesus.
4. The character of hypocritical parents literally destroys the faith of children. (They know we are not perfect - they don't expect us to be - they expect us to be real - they expect us to be in the race/struggle.)
5. Our challenge is great.
6. What kind of life example will they be to their kids if they walk like us?
7. *Walk a little plainer, " Daddy said to a little boy so frail.  
I'm following in your footsteps, and I don't want to fail.  
Sometimes your steps are very plain, sometimes they are hard to see, so walk a little plainer,  
Daddy, for you are leading me.  
I know that once you walked this way many years ago, and what you did along the way, I'd  
really like to know. Sometimes when I'm tempted, I don't know what to do, so I walk a little  
plainer, Daddy, for I must follow you.  
Someday what when I grow up, you're what I want to be, then I will have a little boy who will  
want to follow me. And I want to lead him right and help him to be true. So, walk a little plainer,  
Daddy, for we must follow you.*
8. Dad's walk carefully, walk true, and walk with Jesus - let your children follow.