

Hi friends!! Here we go again, chatting away. Are ya up for it? We're always excited to spend a few moments with you at the beginning of each month, catching up, sharing ideas, anticipating what's next, and revealing what's on our minds at the moment (brace yourselves. It could be anything!). So, here goes... We are entering into warm, beautiful 'ol June, finally! (Yes, weather, we're glad you finally changed your tune & caught up with us!) It's a wonderful time of year and we are all ready to enjoy the beginnings of summer with family & friends! (or just continue doing what we've done all the other months. That works, too.)

Last month we talked about our beautiful mamas! (No surprise there, right?) So, it only seems fitting, and right, and fair to talk about our dads this month. After all, Father's Day is right around the corner and we don't want to miss a moment acknowledging (and maybe poking at) them! We believe dads deserve our attention, our honor, and our mention. After all, NONE of us could be here without them. (It's true). They are the cornerstone of our homes, the strength in our life, the wisdom we depend on, the protection we need, the help we so often will, desperately, reach for (yes, we all need help! Yes, you do. And all of us said... AMEN!), and the brunt of most of our jokes. (let us draw your attention, now, to the 'dad jokes' that take over facebook).

Dads are special. They work hard and say little. They bear long and love much. They dream big and push hard. They hide in the shadows but cast great big ones that we feel safe in. They are strong and faithful, perceiving and committed. They don't always seem to pay attention to the little things, but they always seem to know what's going on. (Insert a dad look here). They give powerful advice that can change our lives (if we listen. We need to listen. Start listening), and they always know the exact right moment to reach out and take our hand. They are encouragers and 'pushers'. They are teachers and instructors. They are coaches and motivational speakers. They are soft, but they are hard. They inspire us to be better and they believe in us when we can't believe in ourselves. They are truly amazing!

They don't look for attention and they last thing they usually want is recognition. They aren't wanting the praise for 'just being what a dad is' and they would rather lift us up, then take the place of honor for themselves. To them, they are just doing their job... watching over their kids and families and always being more than enough. They dream for us. They believe in us. They hope for us. And yes, some, pray for us. They challenge us to be better and they won't let us settle for less. They see hope when we see loss. They see value when we see failure. They see purpose when we see a deadend. They give love when we don't love ourselves. They show us what it means to be strong, dependable, loving, believing, uncompromising and good. Our amazing dads refuse to

let us give up, walk away, throw in the towel, turn on ourselves, because they know what's in us and they refuse to let us sabotage, us!

Sometimes, when we aren't careful, we overlook them. We laugh and poke fun. We critique and criticize. We sometimes ignore them, and don't make too much fuss over who they are. And they take it. They love us inspite of it and they wouldn't trade their role in our life, for any other gig in the world, ever. They quietly do what dads do, and they continue to be rock we stand on, even when we don't know we are standing on them. Society makes light of their role, and mocks their influence and importance, oh but, that doesn't change the necessity of who they are. Deep down, (we think), they always know WHO they are...(Let's be honest, they give us way more grace then we deserve!)

They are our fortress and our place of safety. They are our friend, and our biggest fan. They are our example and the man our sons, one day, hope & aspire to be. They lead with quiet confidence and show us right from wrong. They are mighty. They are a gift. They are an honor to have and to know. They are necessary and wanted. They are inspirational and life-changing. They are sent by God to make us into the people we are today (or are becoming). Not many people have the ability to make an impression on our lives, forever, like our dad. We wouldn't want life without them, and we can't imagine a moment that they won't be there. They are treasures. They are our dads.

We honor all the dads this Fathers Day! You are worthy! You are loved! You are seen! You are amazing! And, you are our heroes!!

**PROV 4:1-2** *Children, listen to your father's teaching. Pay attention and you will learn how to live. 2 The advice I give is good, so don't ever forget what I teach you.*

Happy Father's Day!  
Forgiven Church

*\*\*\*And for all those who never had a dad, who may not have had a 'great' day, or who lost your dad, our prayers and hearts are with you this Father's Day. May Heavenly Father's love and peace overwhelm you today and always. After all, He is the Father of all Fathers and LOVES you, completely.\*\*\**