

Father's Day 2025

(6/15/25)

[Pro 20:7 ESV] 7 The righteous who walks in his integrity-- blessed are his children after him!

I want to start off with a story about my dad, who died in 2022.

As a kid I thought he was the strongest and smartest man on the planet, though I was afraid of him at times. Why? He was an alpha man with a strong “my way or the highway” persona. Perfectionist, short and expressive temper, high standard, and critical. It was around 12 or 13 I started to rebel by 16-17 he and I butted heads regularly.

I used to complain about him to anyone who would listen all the time...including my grandmother who was his mother! I used to look at other dads and wish I was their son because they seemed so much more patient and loving than mine.

Then I joined a sports team and really liked my coach: he was everything dad wasn't. Kind, patient, corrected me w/o raising his voice, seemed to really care. I used to wish he was my dad. Eventually I graduated from high school and moved on...and lost contact with my coach.

I went to college, moved to NYC, the OK, then back to Addison. Despite all his flaws my dad was always there...and I rarely saw my old high school coach. Ironically my dad and my old coach died around the same time and guess what? My name was not in my coach's will. He didn't remain with me after high school.

Dad did. And my name was on Dad's will when he passed.

What is love? Some people think it's a feeling, a cute text in the middle of the day saying “just thinking of you”, or remembering a well thought out gift.

I think it's the person who stands with you through everything. Even when you disappoint them, betray them, rebel against them, talk badly about them behind their backs...I did all those things and more to my father. Dad wasn't tender, compassionate, or emotional. He didn't give out “attaboys.” He didn't just call for no reason, didn't say “I love you” often at all, or how proud of me he was.

But he was rock solid presence in my life from day 1 until his last day. He planned to leave me as his heir before I was even born (my mother said so). He was a source of wisdom and knowledge. He was the hand of discipline when I got out of line. His goal was to turn me from a boy into a man.

And I count that as love.

If Father's weren't necessary or important, Jesus would never have called God "Father" and neither would we.

The devil has worked hard to undermine the role and importance of Dads and make no mistake: we're more than just providers and protectors. We have a greater purpose than lifting heavy objects and squashing bugs.

We're met to be the representative of Jesus in our homes.

It's a big role, a massive responsibility, and sometimes I don't like it.

Adam received 2 promotions early in his life. The first was when he was married, which (in my opinion) took place on day 1 of his creation. His very label changed:

ADAM translates to "[single] man, hypocrite, and common." Not very flattering.

As soon as he was married to Eve, his label changed:

HUSBAND translates to "champion, mighty man, great man, masculine man, and steward."

Then when he and Eve had their first kid, he got his second promotion to being FATHER.

FATHER translates to "chief, principal, head of household, clan, group, and family, benevolent producer & protector, a term of honor and respect."

Being a father is a position created and granted by God Himself. An assignment, a commission, a job, a responsibility and a blessing.

When I first got married it annoyed me than whenever ***my wife needed advice, something fixed, or what have you she would call her dad.*** At first I thought it was just her, then come to discover other husbands were having the same issues with their wives.

Now that I'm older and am a dad, I get it: a dad should make his daughter feel secure. He should be a rock solid presence in her life, someone who reflects wisdom and knowledge, and a leader that shines a light into darkness.

Even though I used to be annoyed when she did that, ***I used to lean on my dad hard for all the same things and more.*** It was only after he died in 2022 that I realized how much work all this is. It's not that I never helped, but I was never the one responsible. Now that he's gone I wonder how did all this right up until his last day!

We are the church, and ***the church should always call their Dad when we get into a pickle,*** need some wisdom, and someone to lean on. Our Dad should always be the One making us feel secure in this evil chaotic world.

A husband shares everything he has with his wife just as Jesus shares His Kingdom with His Church.

A Father makes his kids his heirs just as God our Father did with Jesus and with us, His kids, and made us His heirs.

A human father represents God the Father to his kids. He makes them the heirs of his wisdom, character, knowledge, and everything he owns.

The Lord said this about David, and it applies to you and I too:

[Psa 89:26 ESV] He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

[Psa 103:8-13 ESV] 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

My dad wasn't slow to anger and he always chided...yet if he HAD “dealt with me according to my sins” none of us would be standing here today because this property would belong to my wife and I. If dad had dealt with me according to my sins against him he would have given all this to someone else more deserving.

I say to all the dad's here: you are important. God has given you this role. You are His champion, His mighty man, and His chief. He's given you to be His steward over your wife and children. You represent Jesus in your home.

For all of us: If you're doubting your relationship with God our Father I ask you this: has He truly dealt with you according to your sins? Or according to the righteousness of His Son Jesus?

Is Father God going to bring up all yours sins on Judgment Day and punish you for them? Or has He already placed the consequences on Jesus at the cross?

Are our sins written on a public wall somewhere for people to read, or has the Lord removed them as far as the east is from the west? (You know there are no east-west poles, right?)

God the Father is our Dad, He's merciful, compassionate, and also the hand of discipline for the holy character of all His kids: you and I. He is the Rock-solid presence in our lives that sticks with us no matter what.