

The Love Of A Father

*More than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, **but emotionally absent**. If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency.*

Why is that an important stat? LEADERSHIP

The impact of fatherlessness can be seen in our homes, schools, hospitals and prisons. In short, fatherlessness is associated with almost every societal ill facing our country's children.

- **An estimated 24.7 million children (33%) live absent their biological father.**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, "Living Arrangements of Children under 18 Years/1 and Marital Status of Parents by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin/2 and Selected Characteristics of the Child for all Children 2010." Table C3. Internet Release Date November, 2010.

- **Of students in grades 1 through 12, 39 percent (17.7 million) live in homes absent their biological fathers.**

Source: Nord, Christine Winqvist, and Jerry West. Fathers' and Mothers' Involvement in their Children's Schools by Family Type and Resident Status. Table 1. (NCES 2001-032). Washington, DC: U.S. Dept of Education, National Center of Education Statistics, 2001.

- **57.6% of black children, 31.2% of Hispanic children, and 20.7% of white children are living absent their biological fathers.**

Source: Family Structure and Children's Living Arrangements 2012. Current Population Report. U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2012.

- **According to NCF 72.2 % of the U.S. population, fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America.**

Source: National Center for Fathering, Fathering in America Poll, January, 1999.

Do you know who else knows how important the father is to the home and structure?

Satan

How many TV shows do we see that depict the father as a bafoon?

If you mold the psyche about that position at a young age, the respect for that role wanes...

The world references a mother's love and its vast significance, but there is a love from the father that plays a role that can sweep through generations.

A father loving his daughter enough would prevent her from seeking that male type of affection she desires from somewhere else, which leads to promiscuity with boyfriends and/or dating older men.

A father showing his son love will teach the son that it is ok to display that type of affection to their children. That love will also seek to teach their sons how to work with their hands which would teach them a trade or save them money for their families by DIY's.

Where is the foundational source for this type of behavior? God (**1 John 4:7-13**)

In the beginning, God made the man the head of the house. **Gen 2 and 3**

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21**

- Do not be a hellion, do not go around picking fights, do not discourage in any way, do not put them down, do not abuse them
- Nurture them by being aware of their development, encourage them to express their feelings, promote respect and trust, BE PRESENT, comfort them when necessary, help when there are physical or social challenges
- Advise them on the things of God, recommend a relationship, encourage them to learn God, YOU MUST BE THE EXAMPLE

Men find it difficult today to show their children affection because they view it as a sign of weakness or the mother's role.

EVEN PREACHERS HAVE TO RULE THEIR HOUSE WELL –

One that rules well his own house; having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **1 Timothy 3:4-5**

Eli failed as a father – **1 Samuel 2:12-36 (1 Samuel 4:12-18)**

- Sons defiled sacrificial offerings to the Lord
- Sons were sexually promiscuous with women
- Other wrongs
 - Because he failed to correct and instruct over the years even in their adult years God decreed that there shall not be an old man from their house forever.
 - When we fail to properly lead, we can cause generational curses.

One of the best fathers ever was barely spoken of, but he had a lasting impact.

Joseph was what we call today a step-father or an adopted father, because he wasn't Jesus' biological father, but fulfilled the role that God had designed for him completely.

How do we know?

- ❖ Could have put his fiancé away privately, but chose to follow the angels charge. **Matthew 1:24**
- ❖ Protected his family by fleeing Herod. **Matthew 2:13**
- ❖ Monitored the things of which his child did. **Luke 2:33**
- ❖ Taught his son obedience. **Luke 2:51 (Philippians 2:6-8)**
- ❖ Taught his son a trade **Mark 6:3 (Matthew 13:55)**

Let us take up the charge and be the fathers, leaders, influencers, nurturers, teachers, mentors, disciplinarians, and instructors God has called us as fathers to be!