

## FATHERS, DID YOU KNOW?

**June 2021**

As we look at our nation today, most of us probably agree that it is not doing very well. Changes need to be made, and as our society goes nowadays, it is usually quick to pass on to our government the responsibility of initiating, and implementing them. Yet, we can all do our part in making a difference; as small as it may be. On this Father's Day, I am specifically thinking about our families. Quite frankly, this issue in our nation is a cause for concern.

I remember our former President, Ronald Reagan, who believed that families played an important and vital role in our nation. In some of his speeches, he oftentimes showed how strongly he felt about this issue by sharing these thought-provoking viewpoints. "Breakdown of the family causes 'welfare breakdown'..." "As the family goes, so goes our civilization"..." "Abortion is not the accepted answer to unwanted pregnancies"..." "All great change in America begins at the dinner table"..." "The bedrock values are faith, family, work, neighborhood"..." I have to admit that I admired him for his stand on families, considering it is a matter particularly dear to me.

We certainly can't ignore the fact that fatherless homes are growing by leaps and bounds in our nation today. For different reasons more fathers choose not to stick around, and more children are suffering as a result. Research shows that these children are more likely to face abuse and neglect, and to have behavioral problems. As they grow up, they will likely abuse drugs and alcohol, become pregnant as a teen and drop out of high school, as well as commit crime and go to prison. To make matters worse, the boys are more likely to become absent fathers themselves. These are very disturbing facts.

However, there is a much brighter outcome for children where fathers are present at home, and who are actively involved in their lives. Research shows that there are less distress in toddlers, the overall emotional and social well-being of children is improved, and they do better in school. Adolescents/teen boys are less likely to carry guns and deal drugs, boys have fewer behavioral problems, and girls fewer psychological problems. Furthermore, the daughters are less likely to be engaged in risky sexual behavior when they have consistent contact, and a sense of closeness with their fathers.

In essence, if a pregnancy is desired or not, planned or not; when fathers are there to love and guide their children, to encourage and inspire them, to treat them with respect, and to discipline them when needed; they soon realize that they really make a difference in their children's lives.

While we consider the well-being of our children, the future dads must give this issue prime importance. For the absent fathers, it is a message to accept their responsibility, to take the first step in order to reconnect with their children - if at all possible - and to gradually get involved in their lives. For the ones who are present in their homes, and recognize their need for improvement in reaching out to their kids, it is a wake-up call to start making some changes, and to ask for help; if need be. For fathers who are already doing their very best, it is an encouragement to keep up the good work despite the challenges they may face. And for the ones who have finished raising their families, it is a motivation to earnestly, and faithfully pray for their sons and daughters who are presently raising their own children.

All of this to say that, as fathers, you all play a crucial role in the lives of your children. The time and efforts you're investing to raise them to become responsible, and caring individuals are not in vain. You may not always see the immediate results or rewards of your hard work. Yet, it will come! No doubt you will be leaving imprints on your children's hearts, minds, and lives for years to come. Meanwhile, be patient, make time to get involved in their lives, and enjoy them while they're still in your care. Time goes by quickly, and they'll be flying on their own sooner than you think... Some of you are already doing this, and I want to encourage you to keep up the good work! Ultimately, as more moms and dads join hearts,

and put their efforts together in raising their sons and daughters, we will definitely see a positive, and encouraging change in our families nationwide.

On a personal note, I have to say that two scriptures inspired me deeply while raising my children: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) And "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in how to live rightly." (2 Timothy 3:16) What best source can we find other than the very Word of God, given that He is our Creator, and heavenly Father?

As we celebrate Father's Day, I want to pay tribute to my sons; three loving dads who selflessly devote themselves for the well-being of their families, as well as to all the dedicated fathers who assume the responsibility of raising their own families. I ask God for wisdom, patience, and determination needed to carry out your mission. I also want to commend the fathers who are raising children with special needs, and the single fathers who have no other choice but to raise their families on their own. I truly sympathize with you, and pray God to give you strength, and hope as you go through these challenging times.

I expect Father's Day to be especially difficult for fathers who have lost a child; for those who, for some reason, would love to be with their families but cannot, as well as for the fatherless children; both young and old. My heart goes out to all of you, and I pray God's peace upon you. May you find comfort in the support, and love of family and friends.

I believe that giving recognition to the fathers who have finished raising their families is likewise well deserved, especially on Father's Day. You have invested much time and effort in your children's lives for many years. Some of you may already be grandfathers playing a positive, and important role in the lives of your grandchildren. May the love and affection shown you on this special day by your children and grandchildren bless you richly.

**To all the dads...**  
**HAVE A WONDERFUL FATHER'S DAY!**

© My Walks With God

You may reproduce part of the content of this website for non-commercial purposes only. May not be reproduced or featured on any other websites without permission of My Walks With God. For additional information or to obtain permissions, contact: [mywalkswithgod@gmail.com](mailto:mywalkswithgod@gmail.com)