

CRAWFORD
BROADCASTING
COMPANY



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FATHER

Now comes a day set aside to honor the man of the house. We honor and celebrate the fathers in our nation.

What a responsibility fatherhood is. The child, God-given, comes and the work of fathering begins. Father is teacher, the most influential one, and a child learns from father like no other. The child, like a sponge, soaks up anything and everything from the father, good or bad. Every word, action, experience, every contact with dear old dad makes up the child now and for a lifetime.

The first priority of dear old dad is to train up that child, so sayeth the scripture. Training in the ways of this world and the ways of His world. That training is critical for the child for it will form him or her for a lifetime. Predilections, preferences and priorities of dad become that of the child. Personality traits are handed down, almost genetic. Mannerisms are adopted and the child mimics dad in so many ways, even if dad is unaware. The ways of the father become the ways of the child. Fatherhood is an awesome responsibility.

A true father disciplines with love. Like the Father of the universe, who disciplines those he loves, so should dad chasten. Sparing the rod of discipline spoils the child. But the real rod, the real discipline is correction, truth, dialogue and sincere and regular communication with the child. Not talking at the child, not lecturing, but talking with and to that precious human gift with love.

So that, in so many ways, the father and child are one. That was so with Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord of the Christian, who said:

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

Everything HE is I AM. God we know is love, as we are taught that from childhood. If the Heavenly Father is love, than how much more should the earthly father be love at work with the child. The best a father can do in training up is to incorporate and integrate the characteristics of the Heavenly Father and teach those to the child. Better yet, LIVE those with the child.

When words are at work, they should be living examples. True fathers want the child to know that the child should do what he does, not just what he says. By my fruits, says dad, you will know me. A father says what he means and means what he says. The

father does not negotiate or ask permission of the child (okay?) but rather clearly indicates the standards by which the child must live, standards which must be obeyed while the child is under the tutelage and care of the father. So, when the child leaves father and mother those standards necessary for a lifetime leave with him. They last a lifetime. What a father sows, he reaps, not only in the child, but the child of the child and often for generations to come. Sowing the right seeds can produce fruit for years and years to come.

Our society today has taken the rod from the Father's hand. No corporal punishment of any kind is permitted. But society has gone even further and watered down the influence, the values and standards of so many parents and substituted others, often antagonistic to that of the father. Society has greatly increased the so-called rights of the child while at the same time making it increasingly more difficult to be FATHER. Then comes peer pressure, friends, the total environment at school and the task of fathering and communicating becomes even more difficult. The battle wages for the soul of the child. There are drugs, and sex and immoral behavior of all kinds to cope with. The task of raising up, training up a child is more difficult than ever. It is an awesome and demanding responsibility to be a father. That makes it all the more rewarding to be a father, more challenging, more fulfilling. There is nothing better in life than to see a child well-formed, solid at the core, ready for life on his own. It is the ultimate joy of the father.

Think back, dads everywhere, when you first saw that God-given bundle of joy. What an unsurpassable thrill to know that a brand new life, a God-given human being is yours, yours to love and grow. Cherish every moment you are a father for the time of living together, training, working and loving goes so fast. Like a vapor, the child so quickly becomes adult and moves on. Like the Father who gave His only Son, so fathers give their sons and daughters to society, to humankind. Blessed is the man, the father who gives a son or daughter who makes the world a better place.

So, we salute fathers, real fathers who love their children 'til death do they part. Even then, that love is eternal, like that of the Heavenly Father, something no death in this world can ever extinguish. Cherish every minute of fathering for in the life of any man, it is life's greatest treasure!