

WORD OF INSPIRATION

How would you recognize a great dad today if you saw one?

Would he be the one who was a workaholic to give his children all the conveniences of life and modern toys to enjoy? Would he be the one who stood back and watched his children grow up to be independent and self-sufficient with the ability to decide for themselves the values of life? The answer may be an obvious “NO” to you and me, but for many families in America today the above is a pretty good description of home.

To find out how to recognize a godly father and great dad, we must look at examples from the Bible of fathers that God used and to whom he draws our attention. There was Abraham who exerted a spiritual influence upon his family *“by keeping the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice”* (Genesis 18:19). There was Isaac who blessed his son (Genesis 27:26-27), and Manoah who prayed for instruction in regards to his coming son (Judges 13:8). There was David who gave godly advice to his son Solomon (1 Kings 2:1-4). There are several others but these will prove sufficient. We are most familiar with Solomon’s advice to *“train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). And Paul’s instruction, *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4) is quite common. We may know these verses but not know what God is saying to fathers through them. These verses teach us that godly fathers are those who influence their children for Christ by being a living example of a parent who loves God. A godly father is one who provides for his family and is a blessing to his children. He prays for his children regularly and shares insight and wisdom for daily living. He prepares them for adulthood by spending time with them in their formative years and encouraging them as they grow up. He takes his children to Sunday School and church so that what is spoken at home is practiced in life.

There is no substitute for a father in the home and in the lives of our children. Fatherhood is a great privilege and responsibility and something at which we dads cannot afford to fail. Our children grow up only once. Let’s imitate the biblical example and practice the biblical principles so we may lay a foundation for our children upon which they can build spiritual lives for the glory of God and the hope of the next generation.

Happy Father’s Day to all you great dads!