



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



June 2017

Volume 11, Number 11

**A**t a time when many of our children have never heard of the famous sitcom dads, Ward Cleaver (*Leave It to Beaver*), Steve Douglas (*My Three Sons*), or Jim Anderson (*Father Knows Best*), there is a challenge to find respectable fathers. If you have never seen these sitcoms, you probably wouldn't know there was a time when the media actually gave us a good impression about dads. Yet history and the present are filled with great men worthy of the title, "Dad."

In spite of the disparaging comments often made about dads and in spite of the fathers who have been disappointments, many of them have led their children and families in a way which brought anything but disappointment. Those who have experienced the joy of great dads in their lives have said the following:

- The greatest gift I ever had  
Came from God;  
I call him Dad! - Author Unknown
- "He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." - Clarence Budington Kelland
- "My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard."  
  
"Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.'"  
  
"We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'" - Harmon Killebrew
- "I watched a small man with thick calluses on both hands work fifteen and sixteen hours a day. I saw him once literally bleed from the bottoms of his feet, a man who came here uneducated, alone, unable to speak the language, who taught me all I needed to know about faith and hard work by the simple eloquence of his example." - Mario Cuomo

- "Dad, your guiding hand on my shoulder will remain with me forever." - Author Unknown
- "Any man can be a father. It takes someone special to be a dad." - Author Unknown
- "A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty." - Author Unknown
- "Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance." - Ruth E. Renkel
- "A father carries pictures where his money used to be." - Author Unknown

It has often been through time-tested observation that some children have realized how smart dad became over the years: "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished by how much he'd learned in seven years." — Mark Twain

Often on Father's Day, dads hear painful sermons that remind us we need to step up to the plate, do better, and become more responsible. While it is true many fathers fit into this category, never forget there are just as many who have worn the title well. Dads, as we celebrate Father's Day this month, we dedicate this article to you.

Fathers can still make a difference in the lives of their children. May the quotations we have shared remind you, Dads, that you have an important role. We don't want to beat up on you; instead, we want to encourage and celebrate you for being some of the most important people in the world!

If you struggle as a father and see a need to step up, then do it with enthusiasm. If . . . . [>>>Keep Reading](#)



**Q.** Who was the greatest dad mentioned in the Bible?

**A.** Depending on how you define “great,” you will find a multitude of dads who fit the bill in Scripture. Many great men in Scripture were fathers; but not all of them were great fathers. If we defined a father’s greatness by the number of children he had, then Gideon would take the crown. Judges 8:30 reveals he had 70 sons.

Some would define a father’s greatness in terms of how much he could provide for his children — think high net worth, golden silverware, sprawling real estate, dozens of servants, and gourmet meals. In that case, the title belongs to King Solomon, with Job and Abraham running a distant second. Solomon was so wealthy silver in his capital city was as common as stone (1 Kings 10:27). Both Solomon and Job were high-net-worth fathers who could have given their children literally anything and everything they wanted.

Others measure a father’s greatness by the measure of his wisdom. King Solomon again outshines the others in this category. He was the wisest man who ever lived — but he failed to practice the very things he taught his children. *Disqualified!*

If we defined greatness in terms of a father’s abilities, then King David would have been the quintessential father. The shepherd-harpist-turned-military-hero-turned-king was one of the most able-bodied dads we find in Scripture. He could do pretty much everything. He was the kind of dad about whom kids would say, “I want to be like him when I grow up.” If you looked at David from his throne, you’d see a role model; but at home, he was not a good leader for his children. His parenting shortcomings led to his son Absalom’s rebellion.

The same is true of the other prominent fathers listed in the Hebrews 11 “Hall of Faith”: Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samuel. While they accomplished great things and were used in great ways by God in some of history’s defining moments, none of these great men would have been nominated as particularly great fathers. With the exception of Enoch and Joseph, a deeper examination into their lives reveals less-

than-stellar parenting skills and flawed character.

If the “honorable mentions” in Hebrews 11 don’t rank well on the “paternal greatness” chart, then who does? Are any more nominees left?

One man’s life embodies the essence of great fatherhood. His name is Jehonadab, the son of Rechab. His defining trait? His legacy. This obscure man commanded his family to refrain from drinking alcohol. Not only were his instructions followed by his children, but they were passed on to his grandchildren. God used the obedience of Jehonadab’s family as an example to the nation of Israel, and honored Jehonadab’s legacy with a special blessing (Jeremiah 35:18-19).

That Jehonadab’s instructions were obeyed by his children reveals three important things about his character: 1. He taught his children well; 2. His life was consistent with his teaching; and 3. His children took his . . . [>>>Keep Reading](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

**PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011**

**847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net**

### Sermon Audio Player

Listen to Dr. Edwards online!



### Sermon of the Month

Enjoy Dr. Edwards’ Sermon of the Month



### Free Downloads

Download our free tracts, and help us reach the world!



### Stay in Touch!

Share your questions and comments through email.



Are you sure you will spend eternity in Heaven? [Click here](#) to learn how.