



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



DAD, YOU DA MAN!

In a few weeks, we are going to celebrate Father's Day. This is a day in America when we recognize Dad! Unfortunately, this often becomes a time when dads are reminded of their shortcomings and told to step up to the plate. While in some cases this might be both true and necessary, I want to pause and recognize three important qualities that contribute to a father's success.

His Ability to Show His Love for His Spouse

To some this might seem like a no-brainer. It is easy to be like the comedian who said of his wife, "She knows I love her because if I didn't, I would tell her!" Love is most powerful when a man demonstrates this for his wife. Properly applied love affects the entire family.

In Ephesians 5:15, husbands are instructed, "Love your wives." As the stresses of life continue to increase with job, finances, social dilemmas and most recently COVID-19, marriages have been negatively impacted. Some men had to be with their wives day in and day out for more than a year while working from home during the pandemic. The fact their marriages are still intact is demonstration of what it means to love our spouse.

His Ability to Be a Builder

Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:1 that we are to "Encourage one another and build one another up." These are great words for the Body of Christ; but Dads, they are even greater when we model them in our families. Sometimes it is easier to say encouraging words to everyone else but our families. But if no one else hears them from us, our families ought always to hear them.

His Wisdom in Making Time for the Family

Danny Thomas used to star in a weekly family TV series called "Make Room for Daddy." In the

show, Danny was a busy father whose work as an entertainer kept him away from his family. Dads, don't be like Danny! When your family enjoys being together with you, in most cases it is because you've made room for them.

One of the most important events that can take place in your family is family devotions. Spending time together studying the Word of God is a great way to keep the family spiritually on track. In this study, a father can learn to be the kind of father God has called him to be. A wife can learn to be the kind of wife God has called her to be. And your children can learn to be the kind of children God has called them to be!

Great time spent with your family also includes laughter. Life has a whole lot of serious moments, but laughter can make them bearable. Solomon said, "Laughter is medicine for the soul." Every family needs some laughter every now and then.



Dads, you've probably learned that watching a family video that allows the family to relax together is more important than watching your favorite sports team play. Enjoy this together time — there may even be a deep spiritual lesson from the movie you can use as a teaching moment afterwards.

When you practice these three qualities, Dads, you will have created fun memories your children will share with their children. You will earn the right for your family to say, "Dad, you da man!"

If you are saying, "I'm a dad, but I didn't quite get them all," then let this Father's Day be your start as you affect the lives of your children or grandchildren! After all, it's your special day: "You da man!" - Dr. L.W. Edwards

A FATHER'S CALL OF DUTY



Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil,

know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:9-11

Nothing thrilled Ray more than the opportunity to lead the world's most elite fighting force. After 12 weeks of grueling Marine officer training, he knew he had found his life's calling.

Ray not only became a Marine officer, but he also ascended higher into leadership until he was promoted to company commander. At the end of his six-month deployment in Somalia, another promotion was within reach.

Then Ray's son Patrick was born, and everything changed.

Two days after his birth, Patrick contracted meningitis. Impaired movement on the left side of his body suggested he also had cerebral palsy.

To further complicate matters, Ray's wife Nancy suffered a mild stroke and had to be medically discharged from the military. She couldn't care for Patrick on her own. Now Ray had to choose between his dream career and time with his family.

He chose his family.

Ray left the Marine Corps and accepted a second-shift job so he and Nancy could provide constant care for their son.

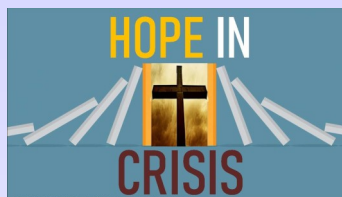
With intervention therapy, Patrick's motor skills slowly returned. He learned to walk and speak. He went to school and even participated in a talent show. Dad was always at his side, taking in every moment.

Though Ray could have locked onto his military dream like a Green Beret sets his sight on a target, he was a father first. He knew his highest

call of duty was not on the battlefield or in a bunker, but at home. He said of his experience, "I may not have been leading 170 men anymore . . . but I was leading the one who mattered most to me."

This month we celebrate dads like Ray who put their families first. If a good earthly father can make big sacrifices for his son, how much more will our Father in Heaven do the same for us?

God's perfect love, demonstrated through His Son's sacrificial death for our sins on the cross, is reflected in a father's selfless love for his family. Mad dad skills aren't developed in the Marines. They are gifts from the Father above. And He is delighted to share them with you — if you'll just ask. It's His call of duty.



Sermon of the Month

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