

Happy Father's Day

Men behaving ... godly!

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Men behaving badly is nothing new. It began with Adam and it has continued every day since.

Men, your children needs you to be a godly man.
Your wife needs you to be a godly man.
Your church needs you to be a godly man.
Your company needs you to be a godly man.
You community needs you to be a godly man.
You nation needs you to be a godly man.

Unfortunately, most men never received what I am about to share with you and therefore are unable to pass these Blessings along to their own children.

Being a godly man is not the same thing as being a "perfect" man. You know that you are not perfect. So does your wife and if your kids are old enough, they too know that you are not perfect.

Come on men. We can be better. We can do better.

Today, I want to limit my comments to how does an imperfect man, behave in a godly manner as a father.

"To get his good-night kiss he stood beside my chair one night,
And raised an eager face to me, a face with love alight.
As I gathered in my arms the son God gave to me,
I thanked the lad for being good, & hoped he'd always be.
His little arms crept around my neck, & then I heard him say,
Four simple words I shan't forget, four words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul, on secrets no one knew.
They startled me. I hear them yet. He said, 'I'll be like you.'"

Dr. Gary Smalley wrote a book entitled, "The Blessing." In it he examines the blessing that Isaac bestowed upon Jacob & he says, "The blessing contains 4 ingredients that ought to be present in every home today. And when those 4 ingredients are present, & practiced consistently, then our children grow up solid, secure & confident of themselves, able to go out into the world & function normally."

How to give the "Blessing" to your children.

1. Meaningful touch

"Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him..."

Gen 27:22

"Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son,
and kiss me."

Gen 27:26

"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them... And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:13,16

Jacob was 40 years old when Isaac touched him & kissed him to convey the blessing to him. And no matter the age, I think it is important to continue to communicate love, acceptance & affection through meaningful touch.

Hold your daughters, wrestle with your boys, rub their shoulders, caress, hold hands just reach out and touch them anyway you can.

2. Spoken words of love and acceptance

"Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field..." V. 27

Issac though he was speaking to Esau and Esau was a real "outdoorsman." The idea here is that Issac was speaking words that connected approval and thanks for what Esau was involved in.

You're doing great.
You're right on track.
You'll figure it out.
You are so smart, talented
I love you. I think you are beautiful. I appreciate you.
"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Pr. 18:21

"My words come from an upright heart; my lips sincerely speak what I know." Job 33:3

3. Placing a High Value

"May God give you of heaven's dew & of earth's richness - an abundance of grain & new wine." V. 28

Our children need to understand and believe that they are more important to us than our money, jobs, and anything else than we own or do.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph 2:10

Handiwork: God's most creative expression of love. His original poem, painting or song.

We want to communicate that our children that they are one of a kind poems, painting or songs, and that God has a special purpose for their lives.

If you really want to place a High Value of someone or something it will always involve the 3 T's:

Time

Talk

Trust

4. Communicating a Glorious Future

"May nations serve you & peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, & may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed & those who bless you be blessed." V. 29

Isaac is helping him to raise his sights & see that his future is bright.

Every child needs to have a father or mother who will instill in them they have a Wonderful, Incredible, Unbelievable future ahead.

"I can know that God is going to use you in a great way."

We're to help our children find their niche, discover who they are, & why they've been made. God made them special. So as they're growing up, help them understand their gifts & talents, & what they're best suited to do in life. Counsel & guide them to become the kind of person God wants, & made them to be.

The mistake most of us make as parents is we try to get our children to become what we want them to be, other than what God made them to be.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, & when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov 22:6

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Eph 6:4