



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



Church Connection

June 2016

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Liberty

Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise:)...And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:2 & 4

Consider this...

The moral standards of God as revealed in the Bible are the moral standards to which God will hold all people accountable....Believers have a responsibility to bear witness to the moral standards of the Bible by which God will hold all people accountable, including those people in public office.

--Wayne Grudem

A Heritage of Faith and Faithfulness

In June we honor dads on Father's Day. While it is impossible to overstate the importance of a mom in the life of a child, it is equally impossible to overstate the important role that a loving and engaged father plays.

Study after study confirms this, consistently identifying the important roles dads play in the lives of both daughters and sons and the negative effects on children when there is no dad involved in their lives. The study results should come as no surprise. The God who created family knows the best family structure is a married mom and dad who love and nurture their children.

As Christians it is good and right for us to do what we can to minister to children who have lost their fathers due to an early death, or who through no fault of their own find themselves in a fatherless home.



It is also good and right for us to routinely remind everyone the best environment for children is for them to grow up in a home with their married biological parents.

Sometimes life situations make us think more deeply and purposefully about these truths. Recently I lost my dad after a brief battle with cancer. His passing naturally caused me to reflect not only on his heritage to me, but also on what kind of heritage I have created and am creating as a dad and grandfather. I share some of my thoughts this Fathers' Day and encourage all dads to join me in considering the heritage we are creating for our children.

A heritage of faith. My dad was forty years old when he trusted Christ as his Savior. I was a senior in Bible college. While I did not grow up with a Christian dad, I did have the privilege of knowing and watching him as a believer for the last forty years. Among other things,

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Pray...

- For fathers to be good and faithful dads and husbands.
- For God to have mercy on our country and to rescue us from our path of self-destruction.
- For pastors who faithfully believe, practice and proclaim the whole counsel of God.
- For Christian teachers and administrators in public schools across our land.

“The land of the free,” because of the brave

On **June 6** we commemorate D-Day, when over 6,000 U.S. soldiers died in what was the make-or-break point of WWII.

On **June 14** we celebrate Flag Day. Our national symbol isn't what makes us great, but it does remind us of the sacrifice of those who founded this country and those who have defended our country. Both days are worthy of our recognition, and we do well to remember the sacrifice of so many to ensure the blessings of liberty for the rest of us.

I appreciated his faithful attendance in his local church. My dad was not perfect. But the truth is when he became a Christian, old things passed away and all things became new.

A heritage of faithfulness. Dad stayed married to my mom. It was a decision and a choice he made. I am grateful he made that choice, not only for the blessing he enjoyed by honoring God's plan, but also for the blessing that choice was to his children and his grandchildren. Through good times and challenging times, he chose to do what was right by his family. We are blessed and challenged by his example of faithfulness.

A heritage of involvement and encouragement. Even before he became a Christian, my dad was teaching me and my siblings. As much as anything, he taught by example. He was a hard worker, often working long hours to provide for his family. I didn't fully realize or appreciate it at the time, but dad worked as hard as he did to make sure we had the things we needed. Even though he didn't have a high school diploma, he eventually became a successful manager for two different transportation companies. And I couldn't even begin to list all the things he has done for his adult children and grandchildren over the years.

So what will your heritage be? How do you want to be remembered? I have pondered and continue to think about these two questions. Whether you are about to embark on the adventure of being a father, or are smack dab in the middle of it, or like me are enjoying my adult children and their spouses—and especially my grandchildren!—it is important to contemplate the heritage you will leave and to be intentional about it.

The culture wants us to believe fathers are optional. The culture is wrong. As a husband and a dad, you play a role in the life of your family that really is irreplaceable. May we each commit to doing all we can, by God's grace, to leave a heritage of faith and faithfulness.

—Dave Lingle, Director of Church Relations

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening and preserving marriage, family, life and liberty in our state.

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