



Church Connection

June 2018

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

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” Luke 15:20-24a

Join us for...

“Punching Holes in the Darkness: Equipping Christians To Bring Light to the Critical Issues of Our Day”

A presentation by Julaine Appling, WFC president

Thurs., June 7, 6-8 p.m.
Tula’s Cafe, Rhinelander

Register online at
wifamilycouncil.org
or call 888-378-7395.

Father’s Day

It is a bit ironic we still have a national “Father’s Day” in a culture that seems to be doing everything it can to deny the importance of fatherhood. Dads are frequently given a bad rap in the media, entertainment, schools, public policy and even in our judicial system. As a result, fewer men are choosing to marry the mother of their child or to be in any meaningful way involved with their children.

In 2017, nationally the percentage of minor children living in fatherless homes was just over 27%, compared to 8% in 1960.¹ In 2016, just under 40% of all births occurred out-of-wedlock where the father has no legal, and often no social, obligation to raise his own child and support his child’s mother.² For millennials that number is a staggering 57%.³ Closer to home, in Milwaukee over 80% of babies are born into fatherless homes.

Despite these horrible statistics, the norm in America is still a married mother and father raising their biological children together,⁴ which means we still have a whole lot of fathers living in a marriage relationship bringing up their kids. Good for those fathers! They’re fighting against the social norms, and their children will benefit greatly from fatherly involvement in their lives. We should be incredibly grateful for the godly fathers in our own lives and the lives of those we love.



The reality is, the traditional, nuclear family, God’s plan, is still the best means of ensuring the current and future welfare of children. The National Fatherhood Initiative says children living in homes without a father are four times more likely to experience poverty, daughters are seven times more likely to become pregnant as a teen, and these kids are more likely than their peers in other family structures to have behavioral problems, face abuse and neglect, abuse drugs and alcohol, go to prison, commit a crime, drop out of high school,⁵ and the list goes on. The point is obvious. When fathers go missing, the next generation suffers.

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How can I be a good dad?

It isn't that hard to be a good dad, but it also doesn't happen by accident. Some suggestions:

- Set a good example. Be a good role-model for your children. Take them to church. Make time in God's Word a priority.
- Love your wife. The best gift you can give your children is the gift of loving their mom.
- Love your kids. It is an amazing privilege to be a father. Tell your kids you love them. Hug them often.
- Pray for your children. Never stop praying for your children.
- Spend time with your children. Read to them, play games with them, teach them things, etc. The most valuable investment you will ever make is the investment of your time in their lives.
- Rejoice in God's grace. You don't have to be perfect to be a good dad. God's grace is sufficient in your life and your children's lives for those times you fall short.

But there's something else fathers portray for their children that is extremely important and goes directly to our understanding of God and our relationship with Him. Fathers are our earthly representation of God, the ultimate model of fatherhood. The concerted effort to destroy fatherhood in our culture is really then, at its root, an effort to destroy the image of God the Father.

The importance of fathers in the lives of their children cannot be overstated. So, how can we encourage future fathers to be aware of that vital role? Our society is so saturated with anti-fatherhood, anti-family sentiment that it is hard to know where to begin. However, at a minimum, we need to launch and maintain a full-scale, frontal attack on the lies drilled into the hearts and minds of our youth who hear so many messages about the unimportance of dads.

The very best place to begin is in our own families with mom building up dad to the kids, and dad being the best role model he can possibly be. We continue in our churches by teaching about God's plan for fathers and families and giving appropriate recognition, respect and help to fathers. In government we enact policies that expect fathers to marry the mothers of their children and to take care of those children, and we hold them accountable for doing so. These small, reasonable steps can yield huge results as we seek to restore a culture of fatherhood in our communities, state and nation.

To all those dads who are bucking the culture and doing everything they can to be a good dad to their children, we say thank you—and we wish you a blessed Father's Day.

¹<https://census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2017/living-arrangements.html>. Accessed 5/21/18.

²https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_01.pdf. Accessed 5/21/18.

³<http://www.wealthysinglemommy.com/single-mom-statistics/>. Accessed 5/21/18.

⁴<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/time-series/demo/families-and-households/ch-1.pdf>. Accessed 5/21/18.

⁵<http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/135704/file-396018955-pdf/RyanNFI-FatherAbsenceInfoGraphic051614.pdf?t=1497039698013>. Accessed 5/21/18.

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, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

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