



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL  
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

## Church Connection

June 2019

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

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*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit....*

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it....And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Eph. 5:18, 25, & 6:1

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**June 6**—75 years ago on this day in 1944 over 6,000 soldiers died defending liberty, and thousands more were wounded. D-day was arguably the turning point of WW II, and we do well to honor the memory of those who gave their all that we might be free.

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**June 14**—This is flag day. It is appropriate to honor and recognize the great ideals expressed in our national symbol: liberty and justice, unity and sacrifice. We are indeed a "heaven-blessed land." May God help us use our citizenship privileges to advance His Kingdom!

### **A Sacred Calling; A Special Privilege**

**O**n Fathers' Day last year a friend remarked that on Mothers' Day we honor moms and on Fathers' Day we rail on dads. An uncomfortable measure of truth might be there. Maybe it is uncomfortable because it isn't entirely fair. Or maybe because it isn't entirely unjustified. As the father of three adult sons, I have often reflected on my own parenting history. It wasn't all bad, but it wasn't all stellar, either.

So what is my advice for you as a dad or dad-to-be? I want you to know that you *can* be a good dad. You, like all the rest of us dads, won't be perfect. But you can be good, because you have the Word of God which thoroughly equips you for all good works (I Tim. 3:16-17), including the work of being a good dad. To be a good dad, a few basic commitments are in order:

- **Be a Christian dad.** To be a Christian is to be Christ-like. Commit yourself to being like Christ to your children. Give them truth and give them grace (John 1:14). Give them an example of humble, loving service in the home and in your church, in your community and in your employment. Love your



Nikolas Lingle with daughters Meredith and Olivia.

spouse and serve your spouse. Be a servant leader in the home. Be a Christian, 24-7, 365 days a year. And when you fail, as inevitably we all have or will, ask forgiveness. Don't just say "I'm sorry." Express your sorrow, admit your failing and say the words: "Will you forgive me?" Both you and your children will grow in grace and humility if you do this.

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## The Difference Dads Make

Our culture devalues fatherhood and the vitally important role dads play in the lives of their children. The culture is wrong. Here is a partial list of the documented difference dads make:

- Dads grow security, confidence and attachment in their children.
- Dads increase school readiness and behavior.
- Dads contribute to stronger cognitive, motor and verbal development.
- Dads help kids make wise life choices.
- Dads help curb violence in boys.
- Dads help kids develop empathy and compassion.<sup>1</sup>

Also, Christian dads play a key role in the spiritual growth of their children. Dads matter! In light of this, pray for and encourage the dads in your church.

And to all the dads out there, happy Fathers' Day from your friends at Wisconsin Family Council. Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of your children.

<sup>1</sup>Marriage On Trial, Stanton & Maier, 2004, 72-78.

- **Pray for your children.** I know it is a lot easier to talk about prayer than to actually do it. But if we really do believe God answers prayer, then surely we must be dads (grandpas, great-grandpas, etc.) who pray for our children daily. We should pray for them “without ceasing.” Pray they will know the Lord, love the Lord and serve the Lord all of their lives. Pray that God will protect them from the temptations they will face. Let them know you are praying for them. It reminds them that your faith is genuine and your love for them is real.
- **Be present.** Yes, you likely have to work and providing for your family is an important priority (I Tim. 5:8). But priorities can be tricky. They easily morph into idols. So keep work and hobbies in proper perspective by remembering that the most important priority any father can have after His walk with God and his relationship with his wife is to spend time with his children. Talk to them. Interact with them. Play games with them. Help them with their homework. Teach them how to work. Your presence in their lives communicates the powerful message that they are important to you, that you care about them and that you are there for them. This will help lay a firm foundation for the structure of their lives.
- **Rely on God.** Ask Him for the wisdom you need to be a good dad (James 1:5). I believe this is a prayer our good God is anxious to answer! He will help you be a good dad if you truly want His help, and you willingly submit to His work in your own life.

You can be a good dad. You likely already are. Commit yourself to moving from good to better and your children will view you as the best. You may never be recognized as Father of the Year by the world, but you *can* be viewed as such by your children and your God. Being a dad truly is a sacred calling and a special privilege!

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

*“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.*