



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection

June 2021

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Freedom

*Behold, I will send you
Elijah the prophet...And he
shall turn the heart of the
fathers to the children, and
the heart of the children to
their fathers...*

Malachi 4:5-6

*And he shall go before him
in he spirit and power of
Elias, to turn the hearts of
the fathers to the children,
and the disobedient to the
wisdom of the just...*

Luke 1:17

Mark Your Calendar

Aug. 1-6, LEAD

Wisconsin

Go to LEADWI.org to learn more about this outstanding opportunity for young people ages 13-19.

For current information on dates and locations of other upcoming events, please be sure to visit wifamilycouncil.org/events.

Turning the Hearts of Fathers

“Just do what you wish your father had done for you. Be the dad you wish you had had.” This was the advice one author had in a book on being a good dad. It is a simple but powerful admonition. Most children know intuitively what’s important to them about their dads. They want time with their dad, talking and playing with him and learning from him. They want his attention, presence and approval. They want to know he loves them—and that includes providing boundaries and safety. They want to know they matter to him—not for what they do, but for who they are. Children may not know biblical truth or statistics and social science research, but they certainly know when their father is absent or disengaged. Children suffer in numerous ways when their dads aren’t involved.



Someone said that any man can father a child biologically, but it takes a real man to be a dad. In an age of sexual anarchy, when so many segments of society have rejected the boundaries established by an all-good Creator God and are determined to do whatever they want, biological fathers abound. But unprecedented numbers of these men are not tied to the mother of their child or as a result, to the child.

Annually in Wisconsin about 38% of babies born will be born to unwed mothers. In Milwaukee, that number jumps dramatically to 80%. Certainly a portion of these children will be in some way connected to their biological father—but that number is small, which means more

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Dads Matter

Dads—You matter. You truly do. We hope every dad that sees this knows this reality. No one expects you to be perfect; so don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We know you want to be a good dad. Here are three simple things you can do:

1. Pray for your children daily, or more often. You cannot pray too much for your children!
2. Be present. Many things demand your time, but engaging with your children must be a priority. Your presence in their lives says they are important to you, that you care, and that you are there for them.
3. Trust God. Ask Him for the wisdom you need (James 1:5). This is a prayer God is anxious to answer!

Dads—Hear these words of Paul to you: *And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not* (Gal. 6:9).

Dads—We hope your Father's Day is filled with blessing and encouragement. Happy Father's Day from your friends at Wisconsin Family Council!

and more children growing up without the incredible positive benefits of a dad involved with their lives. The very best outcomes happen when children live with their married mom and dad—also known as “God’s plan for the family.” Anything different from this puts children at risk for a number of adverse outcomes.

All the things children naturally want from their dads yield great good in their lives now and into the future. Social science research shows, for instance, that involved and present fathers reduce the likelihood of delinquency for boys and teen pregnancy for girls, increase the likelihood of staying in school and doing well academically for boys and girls, decrease the likelihood for depression and involvement with drugs and alcohol for both boys and girls. The list goes on and on. One of the most important things a dad does is to model for his children, especially his sons, what a good man and a good father and husband looks and acts like.

Our challenge is this: First, if you're a dad and you didn't have a good dad, think about what you wanted your dad to be and do in your life—and then be and do that for your children. Break the bad father cycle; don't perpetuate it. Next, if you're a wife and your husband is a great dad, be sure to tell him that—often. Let your children know you think they have a wonderful dad. Pray for him. Encourage him. Finally, if you're a son or daughter and your dad is still living, contact him. Let him know you love him—and if he was a good dad, tell him how much you appreciate all that he did and still does for you.

God designed fatherhood and motherhood. His plan is always best, regardless of what the government, the courts, or the culture says. Mothers and fathers are not interchangeable, and fathers are not unnecessary in the lives of their children. As we honor fathers this month, it's time, as Malachi says (Mal. 4:6; cf., Lk. 1:17) for the hearts of the fathers to be turned to their children. May God give us this kind of turning!

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 freedom in our state.

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