

CHURCH CONNECTION

JUNE 2022



Fatherhood and the Heart of God

Fatherhood—it's a concept about which we rarely hear anything positive in our current cultural moment. And yet it is a paramount theme in Scripture: God the Father, God's instructions for fathers, admonitions for children to obey their fathers, the joys and pains of fatherhood, the relationship between the Father and the Son. Like the institution of marriage, fatherhood was designed by God and illustrates a unique aspect of His character.

Sadly, more and more children and young adults today have no earthly concept of fatherhood—or have one that is absolutely contrary to biblical fatherhood. Thus the concept of the heavenly Father is lost on them. Why is that? For more than 50 years, the sexual revolution sparked by “The Pill” has nearly destroyed the already weakening American family and stolen the birthright of a mother and a father from the more than 40% of children in this nation who are born every year out of wedlock. These children grow up without a father's love and protection; and the boys, in particular, miss out on an example of manly fatherhood.

What can we do for these precious children who have no father? Depending on where you live, there are many opportunities for you to get involved in helping fatherless children—Boys and Girls Clubs, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, church youth groups, sports clubs, and prison ministries, to name just a few. You don't even need an organization—find a young person in your church or your community who needs a father image and get involved.

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You're Invited!

2022 Community Events!
“Your Backyard: Own It!”

Thursday, June 9
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Pizza Ranch, Sheboygan

Thursday, June 16
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Marty's Pizza, Delafield

Thursday, June 23
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Pizza Ranch, Fond du Lac

LEAD Wisconsin

The mission of WFC's world-view and leadership camp for teens is “equipping teens to become effective Godly leaders who engage the culture from a biblical perspective.”

LEAD WI is an exciting, fun-filled and life-changing camp for teens 13-19. LEAD WI will be July 10-15 on the campus of Maranatha Baptist University in Watertown, and there is still room. For details and to register, visit leadwi.org.

STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Like as a father pitieth [has compassion on] his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

—Psalm 103:13-14

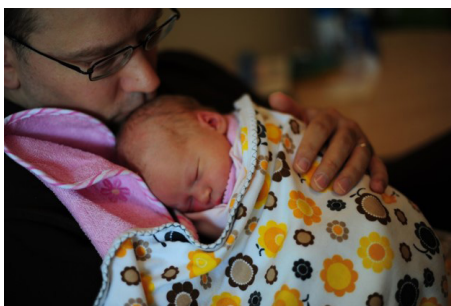
In addition, we need to make sure that state policies do not create an environment where fatherlessness is encouraged. Think about it—our current divorce laws, marriage laws and welfare laws all contribute to and even incentivize fatherlessness!

In spite of what the courts have done to legally redefine marriage, we need to continue to shore up and promote God's plan for marriage in our state and reject counterfeits that are most definitely not in the best interests of children.

We need to hold parents accountable for the welfare of their children. And the social science data, to say nothing of common sense, says that on all the wellbeing indicators, children raised by a married mother and father, fare the best by far.

The reality is we have no replacement for dads, and although we wish every child could experience the benefits of a loving, involved dad, we know that is not the reality. But let's make sure we're not creating policies that purposely deny children a father, encourage fatherlessness, or make it unduly difficult for a father to be involved in his child's life.

So, while we work to spread the Gospel and strengthen, preserve, and promote marriage and family in Wisconsin, let's make sure we recognize the dads who are there for their families, providing for them in so many ways and loving them. Theirs is not an easy job at any time, but it's especially difficult in a challenging economy and in a society where fathers are marginalized and where men are constantly beset with temptations of all kinds. We are indeed grateful for the men—for the fathers—who are fighting the good fight, who are active participants in their children's and grandchildren's lives. You reflect the heart of God the Father. To all of you, Happy Father's Day!



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A Word About the Importance of Dads

In 1965 Daniel Patrick Moynihan issued a report on the black family in America. At the time about 25% of black children lived only with their mothers. Today that number is greater than 70%, and the issue is not confined to black families. Fatherlessness in our country is of epidemic proportions. It is not getting better. Children in particular, and society in general, suffers. Jason Riley of the Manhattan Institute maintains that President Johnson's Great Society programs began a devastating pattern in America: "Marriage was penalized and single parenting was subsidized. In effect, the government paid mothers to keep fathers out of the home—and paid them well. For decades, research has shown that the likelihood of teen pregnancy, drug abuse, dropping out of school, and many other social problems grew dramatically when fathers were absent."¹ God's plan for the family is best for everyone, especially children. Dads—you matter! Perhaps more than you even begin to realize.

¹As quoted by Timothy Goeglein in "The Moynihan Report At 50," published in *The City*, Houston Baptist University, 2015.

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) 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 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.

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