



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

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The Difference a Dad Makes

Have you reflected lately on the difference that it makes for there to be a dad present in the home? In a recent Wisconsin Family Action weekly email, the following was noted:

“The Institute for Family Studies issued a report that finds that strong families are associated with less crime in cities across the United States. Specifically, their analyses indicate that the total crime rate in cities with high levels of single parenthood is 48% higher than those with low levels of single parenthood. When it comes to violent crime, cities with high levels of single parenthood have 118% higher rates of violence.”

The reality is that the vast majority of single-parent homes are headed by women. We are not casting aspersions on single moms! We know they face a myriad of challenges. But the reality is that in God’s plan, single-parent homes should be the exception and not the norm. Statistics like those above just underscore (a) the consequences of not following God’s plan for marriage and the family and (b) the folly of government policies and programs that disincentivize natural marriage.



I (Dave Lingle) grew up in an intact home. Demographically that was probably the case for most “boomers.” I was already married and out of the home before my dad became a believer. Though I didn’t grow up in a Christian home, I am keenly aware on reflection that growing up in an intact home shielded me from many potential pitfalls, and I am grateful to the Lord for this blessing.

This Father’s Day we encourage you to take several actions:

If you grew up in an intact family, thank God for that and thank your earthly father as well. It could have been otherwise.

- Remind your church family of the blessings that come from doing marriage and family God’s way. Even unbelievers reap the benefits of God’s “common” grace when they follow His plan for relationships.
- Bless and encourage the dads in your church family. Life wasn’t exactly easy for my folks when I (Dave Lingle) was growing up, but they worked hard and stuck it out through thick and thin. Life hasn’t gotten any easier in this day and age, and men face pressures and temptations not known by my dad.
- In Christ, all men can be spiritual fathers through the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15). Encourage unmarried men to be spiritual fathers through evangelism and discipleship.
- Give the men in your church the biblical “tools” they need to be good dads and good leaders in the home. This may require that you spend time with them, one-on-one, getting to know them and their struggles, temptations, frustrations, etc.
- Avoid beating up on dads on Father’s Day. Men need to be challenged to be leaders in their homes, and they need to be called to account for common failures, but we suggest not doing that on Father’s Day. On Father’s Day, honor dads and lift up fatherhood as a high and holy calling.

May the Lord bless and fill our churches with godly men who will be good husbands and fathers.

In Christ,



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P.S: Do you know the name of your state representative and your state senator? You can find them by going to <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. We encourage you to pray for elected officials by name regularly and publicly (I Tim. 2:1-4).

P.P.S: Please pray for the LEAD Wisconsin camp coming up in July. Pray that God will work in the hearts and lives of the young people who attend.