

CHURCH CONNECTION

JUNE 2024



DADS MATTER

Fathers play a pivotal role in families. Their leadership—or lack of it—impacts their family and society for generations. Dads matter. Scripture and secular research support this. However, we don't really need the research. We can see with our own eyes the devastating impact that fatherlessness has on children and teens. What is a common denominator in the lives of the vast majority of troubled youth? The absence of a father or the lack of his involvement.

Contributing to the cultural decline are governmental programs that subsidize single parenting, predominantly done by single moms. These programs are generally structured to disincentivize marriage, and therefore the presence and influence of a father in the lives of his children. Decades of experience teach us that no government program can take the place of a father in the home.

So, what can we do about this problem of fatherlessness in a culture that seems bent on self-destruction?

First, we continue to proclaim God's good plan for families. Reserve physical intimacy for marriage (I Thess. 4:3). Husbands love your wives (Eph. 5:25). If the Lord blesses your union with children, then be a good father. It is significant that the command to raise children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" is given to fathers (Eph. 6:4; Cf. I Thess. 2:11). The verbs in Deut. 6:7 are 2nd person masculine, suggesting that fathers have a primary role to play in communicating the faith to their children.

Marriage and family relationships come with challenges. God put these relationships in

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

Prayer & Praise

LEAD Wisconsin is practically filled up! Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide the right volunteers and that He will work mightily in the hearts and minds of all the young people who attend. Pray also for our speakers and leaders. LEAD camp is July 14-19.

"Truth is fallen in the street" (Isa. 59:14), a reality currently on full display on college and university campuses around our country. Pray that there will be a great turning to the Lord.

Pray that the Lord will send forth laborers into the harvest, Luke 10:2.

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."

Prov. 1:5



our lives for our growth and sanctification. Churches provide support and encouragement for families in the good times and hard times. Our churches should be a place where marriage is exalted, and we can find examples of families where husbands love their wives, wives respect their husbands, and families thrive as they grow in love for the Lord and each other.

By proclaiming the truth and living the truth, we will also promote the truth. Most importantly we promote it to our own families.

Men who love their wives and their children well serve as powerful examples to their children. The choices we make as dads—our priorities, our example of faithfulness, our obedience to Christ, our unselfish love, our involvement in our local church, etc.—**all have impact that will echo into eternity.** Let that reality grip your heart and mind and motivate you to continue growing in these areas.

Dads, you have a high and holy calling. There will no doubt be days when your role as a dad feels overwhelming. Here is an encouraging promise for you: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). Here is another one: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him," (James 1:5).

Here is genuine help: Know that we have a Savior who ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). Jesus, our great High Priest, is praying for us. By God's grace may you be and become a godly dad, walking with Christ, being conformed to His image, and loving your family. There is no role more deserving of your efforts and commitment.

A SUGGESTION

As you seek to be a godly dad, don't be surprised to find that the world, the flesh, and the devil will work against you 24/7. So here is a suggestion. Spend one week in a passage like I Corinthians 13:4-7 during your devotional time, asking the Lord to grow you in the different characteristics listed. Week one, ask the Lord to grow you in the area of long-suffering. Week two, ask the Lord to help you demonstrate kindness to your family, etc. Fair warning though: When you start praying this way, the Lord will answer with circumstances that grow you in these areas. Other suggested passages include Col. 3:12-17; I Tim: 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9, Matt. 5:3-11.

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 God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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