

Fatherhood

In addressing the role of the father, or fatherhood, my words must be carefully chosen as my heart has been changed through a litany of court-related events and conditions. Through the course of this legal process, the possibility to become disgusted and even bitter has been a recurring threat – which could be cause for either assuming a victim status or establishing a permanent and monumental chip on my shoulder. But with some reserve, let me continue with my comments on the important and irreplaceable role of a father or father-figure in the lives of children.

Fatherhood is a much-needed resource in the family with the capacity to make radical change in the lives of children through direct and indirect influence. Without going into the history of this key role, or the plight of diminished influence from the media and other sources, fatherhood should stand the test of time and social changes that threaten the value of the father and the structure and importance of the family in general.

I have never questioned my desire, ability and even general record in this role; but, admittedly, some reactions and decisions have not been accomplished in prayer and with the children's overall interest in mind and heart. Perhaps, most fathers and parents share this same view point with the realization of their vulnerability to criticism and to the passing down of generational, but questionable practices. Even with this realization and the negative influences that abound, fatherhood remains a primary call for men to influence the young people about them in a positive, affirmative way. To those who carry on this practice, often as a chief ambition, much gratitude and appreciation will be forthcoming if not already evident. Although not necessarily expressed, the children in your circle of influence have taken mental notes of the sacrifices and commitments necessary for fatherhood and will surely remember them in their lifetime for their children.

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