

Fathers & Children

The Unparalleled Influence of the Father

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Introduction & Statistics on Father's Importance

- Natural Factors
- Supernatural Factors

Fathers & Sons

- Father is most effective model of God & manhood
 - Manifest spirit of self-sacrifice
 - Love and devotion to souls entrusted to you (to show boys what a man should be)
- Sons long for father's approval
 - Approval for what?
 - That they are competent and have something to contribute
 - That they are worthy of respect
 - They imitate behavior, mannerisms, styles of speaking.
 - Even when they tend to push back, they want their fathers to acknowledge their ability to do things and to be independent
- Means to cultivate
 - Bestow approval seriously
 - Often or rarely is less important than how intentional and solicitous
 - Strive to make it proportioned to the accomplishment or, even more importantly, the effort of the son.
 - This can be considered in two ways:
 - The nature of what the boy has accomplished (something objectively big or small)
 - The stage of development (something small in itself may be immense for a young boy)
 - Give opportunities to contribute
 - Invite to help in projects
 - Ask for ideas
 - For things to do
 - On tasks and projects

- Take them seriously, even if you do not follow. Ask them questions to help them see problems with a faulty suggestion.
 - Manifest appreciation & respect (all proportion guarded) for those contributions
 - Remember they are growing; focus more on their effort than quality of results

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Fathers & Daughters

- Fathers, more than any other, help understand true and disinterested love
 - I.e., a love for them as a person without seeking anything in return.
 - This is necessary for their emotional balance; it allows them to be able to
 - Approach God with confidence and sureness
 - To distinguish honorable from dishonorable attentions paid to her by young men.
 - Furthermore, if she knows she is worthwhile because of her confidence in her father's love for her, she is less likely to seek this love desperately from the first person who claims to offer it.
 - Daughters too long for approval
 - Nature of approval is different. They want to know that they have worth
 - Show them they are loveable
 - That they are worthy of attention
 - Visiting a friend with 5 young daughters and their constant search for eye contact with him
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- Means to exercise
 - Pay attention to them
 - Look at them
 - Listen to them
 - Find ways to give them time
 - In good times
 - Share things with them
 - In rough times
 - With friends. Listen and guide. Command when necessary
 - With you. Don't give up and make efforts to seek them out (rather than let them work through things, like boys)

- Show them affection
 - Manifest your gladness when they are around
 - Be ready and free with hugs and other physical signs of affection. This will always depend in some measure on temperaments, but

Conclusion

- Your children need you above another other human person this side of heaven. God has given you the means on the natural level (your character and talents) and on the supernatural level (grace of matrimony) to

Challenges

- **Read *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters***
 - **NB – Though this is primarily about Father/Daughter relationship, it has much of good on parenting in general.**
- **Eliminate all social media accounts (unless required by profession)**
 - **As example to children**
 - **To ensure you are more likely to have time necessary to invest in them**
 - **Allows a man to be present and just alive to his children. They deeply notice this presence**
- **Invest time regularly in children**
 - This is a sacrifice. Often, this will need to be done at the end of the work day or on the weekend when you would like to relax or do things that interest you. While not abandoning the recreation you certainly need, invest in children.
 - An investment is precisely a downpayment on future returns. If you invest well, you will attain a hundredfold return
 - **As a group**
 - **Games**
 - **Conversations (especially meals)**
 - **As individuals**
 - **Try to say something and/or do something meaningful to/with each child each day**
 - **Each week, consecrate a little more time to each child.**
 - **Sometimes, give notes**
 - **Story from Digital Minimalism re drawings**