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The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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What Should a Father Do?

by
John Gipson

Fathers are a strange lot. They get up early and leave the house; they don't come home until the close of day.

I sensed early on in life that Daddy was important. He didn't stay at home as Mother did, but he seemed in control of the family. There was no question in my mind that you did what Daddy said. Mother taught it; Dad enforced it.

Later, when I became a father, I began to sense the awesome responsibility of providing for one's family. There was housing to be secured, food for the table, and clothing for the body. But that was only the beginning. Something much larger was at stake—the eternal welfare of every member of the family. Being the “head” of the house was no matter to be taken lightly. Thankfully, I found a handbook for fathers—the same my father used: the Bible. I wasn't perfect, but the Book was. I still recommend that Book for every man trying to raise a

family. It will give you insights at every turn in the road.

For example, take the statement of the Apostle Paul: “*For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory*” (1 Thess. 2:11, 12).

In these verses three verbs are connected with the role of the father: *exhorted*, *encouraged*, and *charged*. Children need to be **exhorted** to a life of right conduct. They need to be **encouraged** in their pursuit of that goal. And they need the authoritative **charge** of their father (God chose Abraham because He knew that Abraham would “*charge his children and his household after him, to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice*” [Gen. 18:19]).

There is no job more important for any father than that of teaching his children “*to lead a life worthy of God.*”

—Via **Pulpit Helps**

God's Ten Most-Wanted Men

Blessed is the family when the father is a man of faith.

1. The man who puts God's business above any other business.
2. The man who brings his children to church rather than sends them.
3. A man who is willing to be the right example to every boy he meets.
4. The man who thinks more of his Sunday School Class than he does of his Sunday sleep.
5. The man who measures his giving by what he has left rather than by the amount he gives.
6. The man who goes to church for Christ's sake rather than for himself or someone else.
7. The man who has a passion to help rather than to be helped.
8. The man who has a willing mind rather than a “brilliant” mind.

9. The man who can see his own faults before he sees the faults of others.

10. The man who is more concerned about winning souls for Christ than he is about winning worldly honors.

—via **Pulpit Helps**

The Legend of the Cap and Gown

Long ago, in ancient Greece, when formal education was for the very rich or the very determined, a wise old teacher was approached by a group of nobleman. “Our sons have completed their studies and it is time for them to return to their homes and live in the style befitting their station. Tomorrow we will present them at a great banquet. Be sure they are appropriately dressed in their finest robes.”

The following day, the banquet hall was filled with royalty dressed in dazzling finery. The great moment came when the students entered the banquet hall with their beloved teacher. A cry of disappointment arose from the crowd for, behold, their young men were dressed, not in the garments of the noble, but in simple robes of sackcloth, each carrying a mortarboard—the mark of a common workman!

“What is the meaning of this?” cried the noblemen. “Our sons were to be dressed

in their finest garments!” the wise teacher replied, “But they are ! Your sons are dressed in the clothing of the mason, for their destiny is to build. Some, as architects, will build cities, some as teachers, will build lives, some as physicians, will restore bodies—but all will be builders on the solid foundation of knowledge.”

And to this day all graduates wear a cap and gown—proudly symbolizing the value of education, and the fact that they are builders of their future and the future of our world.

We cannot all be *great* and *famous* in the sense in which these two words are usually defined, but all of us can use what time and talents God has given us to help others. “There is no greater sermon than a sermon in shoes” leaving a shining footprint for someone else to follow.

—*Selected*

Kid’s Instructions for Life

- ◆ Never trust a dog to watch your food.—Patrick, age 10.
- ◆ When you want something expensive, ask your grandma.—Matt, age 12.
- ◆ Never smart-off to a teacher whose eyes and ears are twitching.—Andrew, age 9.

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- ◆ Sleep in your clothes so you’ll be dressed in the morning.—Jen, age 8.
- ◆ Never try to hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.—Rosemary, age 7.
- ◆ Don’t flush the toilet when your dad’s in the shower.—Lamar, age 10.
- ◆ Never ask for anything that costs more than five dollars when your parents are doing taxes.—Carol, age 9.
- ◆ Never bug a pregnant mom.—Nicholas, age 11.
- ◆ Don’t ever be too full for dessert.—Kelly, age 10.
- ◆ When your dad is mad and asks, “Do I look stupid?” don’t answer him.—Heather, age 16.
- ◆ Never tell your mom her diet’s not working.—Michael, age 14.
- ◆ Don’t pick on your sister when she’s holding a baseball bat.—Joel, age 12.
- ◆ Never dare your little brother to paint the family car.—Phillip, age 13.
- ◆ Listen to your brain. It has lots of information.—Chelsey, age 7.
- ◆ Remember you’re never too old to hold your father’s hand.—Molly, age 11.