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The Family Friend

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

June, 2018

Proud of My Father

I was cleaning out the basement and found a box of old photos. You know the kind of photos I'm talking about. Cheesy, dated, and awkward family photos. There was a reason we had them hidden in the darkest corner of our house. They weren't worthy to be put on display, but they were also too precious to merely throw away. As I flipped through them, I stumbled across some ancient photos of my dad. In one picture he had an afro and this corny smile on his face. In another picture, my dad was standing by an old pickup truck wearing a long and baggy cut-off T-shirt. He had 80's frame glasses on with large lenses, and a truckers hat that barely sat on his head.

To most people, those were embarrassing pictures. To most people, those were things that I should hang my head in shame over. But you know, all I felt was pride. I was so proud of who I came from, and as weird as he looked, I sat there defending his fashion choices in my mind. I'm proud to be the grandson of a preacher and

the son of a preacher. But, there is nothing that fills me with more pride than the fact that I am a child of God.

There are so many reasons that I'm proud of that fact, but here is the main reason... because He loves me more than I deserve. Our sins put Christ on the cross. It was my sin problem that made Jesus cry out in agony, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). When we commit sin, we are participating in the very thing that Christ came to die for. And yet, despite all of that, my God loves me. My Father has still taken me in. He has shown unconditional love, a love stronger than any mortal could show. My Heavenly Father has offered salvation, the forgiveness of sins, and a hope of eternal glory.

I'm proud to be a child of God.

Dale Pollard

Dale is the associate minister of the Forrest Park church of Christ in Valdosta, Georgia.



For the Sake of Our Children

I am sure we have all heard the news this past week of still another school shooting by a teenager which resulted in the death and injury of other teenagers. In a society that has indiscriminately allowed the murder of literally millions of children in the womb for the past 46 years, has consistently devalued human life by supporting the "humane" end to people's lives by assisted suicide (euthanasia), and produces massive numbers of movies/video games/books/music that glorify the taking of human lives, we certainly should no longer be shocked as incident after incident continues to occur.

Most of our leaders, the "academic elite," and all the purported "experts" have put forth so many reasons that this continues to happen. Some blame the lack of proper laws. Others point to the availability of weapons in our country. Societal experts continue to blame poverty, hopelessness, discrimination about gender choices, bullying, "hate" espoused by religious "fanatics," failing school sys-

tems, the rich, and anyone or anything else they can possibly blame rather than who and what is really to blame. Some fifty years ago there was a dramatic shift in our society. From homes that were overseen by men who fulfilled the roles and responsibilities of fathers (Titus 2:2, 3-8; Eph 6:4; Eph 5:25, 28-29; Col 3:19, 21), women who were homemaking mothers to their children and wives to their husbands (Titus 2:3-5; Col 3:18; Prov 30:10-31), children who honored, obeyed, and respected their parents, those in authority, and God (Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20; Rom 1:30, 32; 1 Tim 1:9), we gravitated to “latch-key children” (those who came home or were left home each day because both parents now had careers), absentee fathers who preferred to spend more time gratifying themselves and leaving the parenting up to their wives, a society which glorified the single parent home, same gender homes, and mothers more concerned with everything outside of the home rather than fulfilling a role that no one else was capable or qualified of filling (Prov 29:15, 17; 1 Sam 3:13).

The Devil continues to feed the lie that children must not receive guidance, training, and discipline from their parents, so we now have a society full of children who have no value system, no respect for anyone or anything, and now act out any/all impulses or desires that come into their minds. God has not abandoned us, we have abandoned Him! God says, “draw nigh” to Him and He “will draw nigh to us” (James 4:8).

The obvious truth is that “God is not mocked; whatever

man sows, that he shall also reap” (Gal 6:7). The crop is in!! Until our country, society, and world go back to the pattern God established for the home, fulfill the roles he has given to each of us in the home, and return full force to living lives devoted to God rather than ourselves (Mark 8:34), nothing will change. Can we as God’s people help to stop this for the sake of our children.

Randy Reagan’s blog, link, via ***Preacher Stuff***

To My Child: Things I Can and Cannot do

I can share your life, but I cannot live it for you.

I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.

I can give you directions, but I cannot always lead you.

I can allow you freedom, but I cannot account for it.

I can take you to church, but I cannot make you believe.

I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot decide for you.

I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.

I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.

I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honor.

I can tell you the facts of life, but I cannot build your reputation.

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I can tell you about lofty goals, but I cannot achieve them for you.

I can teach you to obey, but I cannot answer for your actions.

I can warn you about sin, but I cannot make your morals.

I can love you as my child, but I cannot place you in God’s family.

I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.

I can teach you about Jesus, but I cannot make Him your Savior.

I can teach you about prayer, but I cannot make you pray.

I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you eternal life.

Author Unknown

—via **Cory Collins’** blog, ***Serving and Sharing***

