

What Kind of Dad Will Your Children Remember, part 2 – Father’s Day 2010

Diane Warren nominated for: 4 Golden Globes, 6 Oscars, 9 Grammys

Because You Loved Me

For all those times you stood by me, for all the truth that you made me see
For all the joy you brought to my life, for all the wrong that you made right
For every dream you made come true, for all the love I found in you I’ll be forever thankful
You’re the one who helped me up, never let me fall
You’re the one who saw me through, through it all

You were my strength when I was weak. You were my voice when I couldn’t speak
You were my eyes when I couldn’t see. You saw the best there was in me
Lifted me up when I couldn’t reach. You gave me faith ‘cause you believed
I’m everything I am because you loved me

What if my children were to look back and write a song for me as their dad – how would I want them to remember me?

Having a clear picture of what kind of dad we want to be gives us a “goal” to aim at.

“Aim at nothing – hit nothing!”

What Kind of Dad Will Your Children Remember? – Part 1 (FATHER’S DAY . 2007)
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What Kind of Dad Will Your Children Remember? – Part 2 (FATHER’S DAY . 2010)

#1 – As a dad who loved them unconditionally

The number one cause of human dysfunctionality is “conditional love.”

“Conditional Love”:

- When we perform correctly, we get loved
- When we perform incorrectly, we get rejected

So often we have plans and goals for our children – and we take it as a personal reflection on us if our child doesn’t achieve these goals.

So often – as dads – our sinful egos keep us from giving our children the unconditional love they so desperately need.

A truly effective dad (with God’s help) rises above this because he understands the power of unconditional love in the life of his child.

“But while the boy was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him, and ran to his son, and threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20

Message: “Son, you can’t mess up bad enough for me to stop loving you!”

As dads, the one thing our children need the most from us is our unconditional love and acceptance.

#2 – As a dad who loved them enough to discipline them

“Do not withhold discipline from your child – even though you punish him with the rod, he shall not die.” Proverbs 23:13

“If you punish them with the rod, you will save their soul from death.” Proverbs 23:14

*"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from them."
Proverbs 22:15*

"The rod of correction imparts wisdom; but a child left to himself disgraces his mother." Proverbs 29:15

Question: *"Why don't more fathers discipline their children?"*

Answer: *"Because some dads just aren't willing to pay the price."*

The Bible is full of examples of fathers who failed their children – not because they didn't love them – but because they weren't willing to confront and correct them.

*"David, his father, had never crossed him at any time by asking: 'Why do you behave the way you do?'"
1 Kings 1:6*

#3 – As a dad who helped them achieve their God-given destiny

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart." Proverbs 37:4

When we are "delighting ourselves in the LORD," He puts "desires" in our hearts that direct us into His perfect plan for our lives.

*"For it is God who is at work in you, giving you the desire and the power to achieve His purpose."
Philippians 2:13 (Phillips translation)*

I believe *that God has a "destiny" for each one of my children's lives.*

I believe *God reveals that "destiny" (at least in part) by the "desires" He plants in their hearts.*

As a father, I need to be listening to the "desires" of my children's hearts and – once they take clear form and direction – do everything in my power to help my children achieve their God-given destinies.

All of this presupposes that, as dads, we're emotionally in touch with our children.

#4 – As a dad who let them really know who I am

The Greatest Man I Never Knew – Reba McEntire

The greatest man I never knew, lived just down the hall.

And every day we'd say hello, but never touched at all.

He was in his paper. I was in my room. How was I to know he thought I hung the moon?

Then the days turned into years, and the memories to black and white.

He grew cold like those old winter winds, blowing across my life.

The greatest words I never heard, guess I'll never hear.

The man I thought could never die, has been dead almost a year.

And he was good at business. But there was business left to do.

He never said he loved me. Guess he thought I knew.

If you were to die tonight, would your children know enough about you to compose an intelligent eulogy?

As a dad, give your children the greatest gift any father can give: give them "yourself."

#1 – As a dad who loved them unconditionally

#2 – As a dad who loved them enough to discipline them

#3 – As a dad who helped them achieve their God-given destiny

#4 – As a dad who really let them know who I was