

## Notes for Father's Day Message: Fathers: the glory of their children

### Fathers: Called to Impact Generations

Ps 128:6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Pr 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children

Eze 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

### A Special Grace

Pr 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

I was my father's daughter...He is dead now and I am a grown woman and still I am my father's daughter... I am many things besides, but I am daddy's girl too and so I will remain – all the way to the old folk's home."

Paula Weideger

First and foremost, they are our fathers, and whatever magic we had with them, even if just for a few of our very early years, profoundly affects us for the rest of our lives.

--Cyra McFadden

The words that a father speaks to his children in the privacy of home are not heard by the world, but, as in whispering-galleries, they are clearly heard at the end and by posterity.

--Jean Paul Richter

Words have an awesome impact. The impressions made by a father's voice can set in motion an entire trend of life."

--Gordon MacDonald

Your hands have changed with the years – grown a little out of shape and worn. But for me they are the hands that held me steady on your shoulders, that taught me sailors' knots, that soothed away my nightmare, that kept me safe. Any change in them is only a disguise. They are the hands I trust, the hands that now, as then, mean certainty and love.

--Pam Brown

### **The Problem: Where is Papa? (Father's Day, 1998)**

Lucille Ball was the first lady of American comedy. Some time before her death she did a remarkable television interview with Merv Griffin, who asked her a very pointed and serious question. Lucille, you've lived a long time on this earth and you are a wise person. What's happened to our country? What's wrong with our children? Why are our families falling apart? What's missing?

Lucy's startling yet matter-of-fact reply came quickly. Papa's missing, she said. Things are falling apart because Papa's gone. If Papa were here, he would fix it.

### **Ed Cole, Maximized Manhood:**

**"The absentee father is the curse of our day."**

Crime statistics: Every 27 minutes in the US gives us:

1 murder

70 stolen cars

125 homes burglarized

405 items stolen from offices or peoples yards

To the extent that youths were involved, they were overwhelmingly boys. In 1983, for example, there were approximately 1,722,531 people under the age of eighteen arrested in this country. More than 78 percent were boys. What is causing young people, particularly boys, to commit so much of the serious crime in this country? The key common factor is the absence of a father.

### **A Who's Who of Fatherless Men:**

John Wilkes Booth

Lee Harvey Oswald

James Earl Ray  
Sirhan Sirhan  
Charles Manson

add to that the assassins or attempted assassins of presidents Andres Jackson, James Garfield, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt

Even more startling is the situation in the black community.

In 1988, 75 percent of all black infants were born to unwed mothers

in 1983 four out of ten black families in America had no father present, a ratio 300 percent greater than that of white families.

Through a history of slavery, segregation, exploitation, oppression, overwhelming prejudice, emasculation, and well-intentioned but degrading government assistance programs, black families have lost their leaders-the fathers.

The effect on the sons is tragic. Richard Stengel wrote in Time about a frighteningly familiar but largely unspoken national scourge: the epidemic of violence by young blacks against other young blacks.

- The leading cause of death among black males, ages 15 to 24, in the U.S. is not heart disease, not cancer, not any natural cause. It is murder by other blacks.
- More than 1 out of every 3 blacks who die in that age group is the victim of a homicide. Across America, particularly among the underclass in the nation's urban ghettos, brother is killing brother in a kind of racial fratricide.
- More than 40% of all the nation's murder victims are black, and 94% of those who commit these murders are black.
- The 6,000 or so Americans who lost their lives because of black-on-black violence in 1981 alone rivals the number of black servicemen killed during the twelve years of the Vietnam conflict.<sup>15</sup>

The fatherless black youth, in his flight from the feminizing forces of a matriarchal culture, has pursued the only option he sees available to him to gain masculinity. In his mind, being physically tough is masculine. The main issue here is not poverty. Poverty is not necessarily associated with crime because there are many poor and law-abiding people. <sup>16</sup> If poverty were the main reason for crime, almost everyone in the Third World would be a criminal. It seems that no one, for some hopeless or fatalistic reason, wants to touch on the raw nerve that needs to be healed-absent fathers, in both the white and black communities.

Some seemingly good news: since 1980, the property-crime rate has fallen

Why? Most analysts believe it is because people are home more as the result of cable TV and VCR's

Stephen Covey, in 7 Habits of H Eff Families, compares the social climate of today with that of 30 yrs ago:

Illegitimate birth rates have increased more than 400%

The % of families headed by a single parent has more than tripled.

The divorce rate has more than doubled. Many project that about half of all new marriages will end in divorce.

Teenage suicide has increased almost 300%.

SAT scores among all students have dropped 73 points.

The No. 1 health problem for Amer. Women: domestic violence. (4 million beaten each yr by their partners)

One fourth of all adolescents contract a STD before they graduate from HS

Families with one stay at home parent has dropped from 66.7% to 16.9%

Avg child spends 7 hrs/day watching TV and 5 minutes/day with Dad

Weldon Hardenbrook writes:

At the very beginning of the creation of our world, God proclaimed that it is not good for man to be alone, and through Adam He instituted the family as the center of human community. Throughout the historical transitions of a variety of cultures, the family existed as a natural society that provided the soul of each nation and that was to be nourished and protected through fatherhood.

But what is fatherhood? Certainly there is more to true paternity than merely breeding offspring. Author Clayton Barbeau does a good job of defining the essence of fatherhood when he writes, The notion of responsibility is at the crux of true fatherhood. The conscious sense of responsibility for the physical and spiritual well-being of others is the mark of a true father. <sup>2</sup>

I humbly but firmly submit that the soul of our nation is in crisis in large part because American men have-from ignorance and for various and sometimes even subconscious reasons-abandoned their God-given role of fatherhood. They have discarded the notion of being responsible for the physical and spiritual well-being of those around them.

**"History and instinct tell us that a society that does not encourage responsible fatherhood will pay for its failure in future generations."  
-Lyndon Johnson**

This disappearance of the American father has led writer Marion J. Levy in *Modernization: Latecomers and Survivors* to note that for the first time in the history of humankind the overwhelming majority of little boys and little girls continued under the direct domination and supervision of ladies until they reached maturity. This has never happened before in history. Crusades, wars, migrations, pestilence-nothing for a people as a whole ever before took so large a percentage of young adult and older adult males out of the family context for so much of the waking time of the children. Most of us have not even noticed this change, nor do we have any idea of its radicality. 4

Lucille Ball was right. Papa is gone. Consider these sobering statistics

- One of every four American children has no father in the home to welcome him or her at the time of birth.
- Only 41 percent of today's children will grow up in a two-parent family.
- Almost a million children are left with one parent because of divorce each year.
- Nine out of ten of these are with their mothers.
- Today's children are the first generation in this country's history who think divorce and separation are a normal part of family life

**The good news:**

**Malachi 4.5,6 last 2 vss of OT**

**5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

**6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."**

Recovering Patriarchy

God is calling men to assume their God-given responsibility to lead their families in the business of extending the Kingdom of God.

1 Tim 3.

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Characteristics of this rulership:

Rule as stewards

"Men, we do not "own" our wives and children. They belong to God, and they must know that we rule for Him, by His Law, with His wisdom and love, in His power, and for His purpose."

Rule as servants

"To rule well means that our authority and power as heads of our home must never be used to subjugate family members for our personal convenience, but always for their benefit."

Rule as kings

"This concept is very difficult for many men to grasp, particularly in today's society where men have been denigrated, put down and figuratively castrated... we must not be distracted from our mission of ruling by cries of "chauvinist," "tyrant," "woman-hater," or accusations of trying to subjugate women."

Rule as lovers

"All that is wrapped up in the love of God is to flow through us as fathers to our families."

See

Get vision for your life  
Get passionate about serving God – live it before you expect anyone else to live it  
Get vision for your children's lives  
Jacob

"If you're in charge and you stop rowing, don't be surprised if the rest of your crew stops rowing too."

Speak  
Deut 6.6-8  
An anointing!!!  
Abraham  
Job  
Compare to Eli

Sacrifice  
Why are you here?  
To be served?  
To have a good life?  
Or to serve God?  
To serve future generations?  
Birkenhead

HMS Birkenhead: troop carrier  
Sailing off the coast of S. Africa  
Carrying the 74<sup>th</sup> British light infantry as well as some civilian passengers; 638 people in all  
Hit the shoals; it appeared hopeless; started breaking up  
Only 3 lifeboats; insufficient for the number of people on board  
Captain: "Every man for himself"

The brave and noble men of the British 74<sup>th</sup> light infantry assembled on deck  
Assessing the situation, they made a decision: the women and children must go first  
Stood at attention while the civilians were ushered into lifeboats

The lifeboats were launched, and the Birkenhead went down;  
The men of the 74<sup>th</sup> floundered, clung to scraps of wood;  
Sharks began to swarm  
The lifeboats were only 150 yards away; but knowing that they would capsize the boats if they swam to them, the men of the 74<sup>th</sup> paddled helplessly thru the water, knowing that death was imminent, but refusing to jeopardize the women and children whom they had chosen to sacrifice their lives for

Rudyard Kipling: "It is a hard pill, the Birkenhead drill"

Inspired a whole generation of men to sacrifice

Book recommended:  
Point Man by Steve Farrar  
Tape: Where's Papa? Father's Day, 1998