

THE HEART OF A FATHER

lead by example.

For you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children - encouraging you, comforting you, and urging you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

I'm so thankful for the example set for me by my Dad and the many 'fathers' in my life.

My Dad fulfilled the key responsibilities of fathering: **Providing and protecting.**

I was safe and secure growing up. **He modelled: generosity, compassion, caring, and a sense of justice.**

My grandfathers also had a profound impact upon me. Both, **very kind men** with old world graces and a gentleman's manner, hardworking and very **considerate of others.**

I'm especially grateful for men who showed me how to love God and love as Christ loves.

Growing up we are hardly aware that we are absorbing, imbibing, the examples of men around us. It's true, isn't it?

Children are sponges, taking in through their eyes, their ears, and their senses everything around them.

I am watching the way you live your life.

I am watching the way you treat people.

One of the best ways to love our children is to love our wives.

As a result, boys will learn how to treat their wives, their families, their children, and others.

Girls will be attracted to men who treat them and others well!

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. **Ephesians 5:26***

Yet, it is about how we treat everyone. How do we treat the poor, enemies, those who differ with us, or oppose us? (love your enemies).

Do we take interest in those who are 'different' or can do nothing for us?

How do we talk about people? How do we talk to people?

How we treat women and girls and talk about them is so critical.

We are to use our power and strength to serve.

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the (physically) weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers **1 Peter 3:7** (parenthesis mine).

Boys desperately need to see this.

I am watching your character; the choices you are making.

Honesty, integrity, courage - even when it is tempting not to.

Pay close attention to your life and to your teaching. Persevere in these things, for by so doing you will save both yourself and those who hear you. **1 Timothy 4:16**

I am watching how you handle fear, failure, and struggle.

I came to you in [a state of] weakness and fear and great trembling. **1 Corinthians 2:3 AMP**

Appropriate sharing of weakness, struggle, admitting failure, saying sorry, model **humility** (wisdom is needed about when and how much to share).

We help our children when we also model perseverance, courage, resilience, and problem solving.

We help them to embrace the truth that mistakes, and failure, are part of the journey of growth.

Dependency upon God in prayer and faith deeply impact children

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.

Romans 5:3

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 2 Corinthians 9:1b

I am watching how you conduct your relationship with God; how you follow Christ.

And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 said Paul.

Jesus' example is enough! If we model our lives on Him, we will be the ideal father. Why?

When we see Jesus, we see the Father in action.

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9

Fathers, our little ones need us to show them the way to live. They are watching us!