

— SO Important To Have Father Set The Pattern!

Today, single-parent homes have increased 300%. But even when both parents are physically present, the father is often spiritually and psychologically absent. This coupled with other factors has had devastating results on the family.

- 25% of today's children will go to sleep tonight without their biological fathers in the home. For the teenager, it is 50%.
- Only 1 in 5 of these will see their fathers weekly and in a typical year more than 35% will never see their fathers at all.
- 3,000 children everyday see their parents get divorced.
- Those without a father are 5 times more likely to live in poverty, 4 times more likely to have behavioral issues that require psychiatric treatment, twice as likely to drop out of school and twice as likely to go to jail.
- **Focus on the Family**, "more than 20 million USA children grow up without a dad," and "the USA leads the world in fatherless families."
- Fatherless daughters are 53% more likely to marry as teenagers, 111% more likely to have children as teenagers, 164% more likely to have an out-of-wedlock birth, and they have a 92% higher divorce rate than girls that are raised with a dad at home.

Why has this happened? There are many reasons, but one of the major causes includes **the failure of fathers to take the responsibility for the spiritual leadership** of the family according to the guidelines of the Word of God—giving, loving, serving, caring and strong leadership.

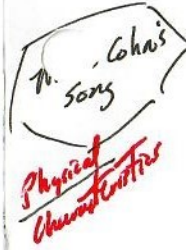
Now a father has many different responsibilities. Some of these are a great joy and others are a bit harder to do. A father is responsible to be:

A Pattern To Follow

"THE THINGS WE'VE HANDED DOWN" 16-21-2020/21

Text - Ps. 78:1-7

Intro. - Most of us think about MATERIAL things that are passed from one generation to another —



- * Daddy's pocket knife
- * Granddaddy's Double-barrel 12-gauge shotgun
- * Momma's Dishes/Jewelry
- * Granny's Cuckoo clock etc.

— But, the Bible ^{speaks} more of the HERITAGE OF FAITH that is handed down — HERITAGE — "that which has been passed from one generation to the next."

— A HERITAGE, goodly or not goodly, will be passed down — INEVITABLE! ^{It's} God's goodly heritage of the next generation is being corrupted by the influence of peers/rotten media/me-centered living/materialism etc.

— FATHERS carry the major responsibility of Handing Things Down — MOTHERS Purpose/Meaning/Value HANDING DOWN A HERITAGE OF FAITH

— God's Word/Law/Commandments / "testimony" established
— A PATTERN TO FOLLOW — pattern/plan/schematic/blueprints
Deut. 6 / Ps. 78

Parents Learn First — Then They Pass Down/Transmit To Next Generation

You can't teach/pass down what you don't know

→ Too Many are Unfamiliar w/Bible, Prayer, Church
Unconcerned w/spiritual things
Undecided about the Lord/Salvation, etc.

- * Not all fathers are worthy of honor?
- * Not all fathers set a good pattern?

["My daddy knows the mason, my daddy knows the Governor, my daddy knows the lord!"]

The Things We've Handed Down

I wonder who you'll look like
Will your hair fall down and curl
Will you be a mama's boy
Or daddy's little girl

Will you laugh just like your mother
Will you sigh like your old man
Will some things skip a generation
Like I've heard they often can

Are you a poet or a dancer
A devil or a clown
Or a strange new combination of
The things we've handed down?

You may not always be so grateful
For the way that you were made
Some feature of your father's
That you'd gladly sell or trade

And one day you may look at us
And say that you were cursed
But over time that line has been
Extremely well-rehearsed

And these things that we have given you
They are not so easily found
But you can thank us later
For the things we've handed down

- Marc Colton

2 - A PROCESS TO CONTINUE

Church/School - YES

But also Continue @ HOME!

→ * Life-long Process - not just a day/weekend/drop-in, etc.

→ * Bible-based Process

→ * Christ-centered Process
- Col. 2:3

* Aunt Peggie - June 2020, long talk
& how she hated that word
"process" -
"Withdraw from a child the
only divine rule of life, and
the result will be the most
lamentable. An education
purely secular is the handmaiden
of godless skeptics."

- From Generation to Generation

Fathers → Children → Grandchildren → etc.

3 - A Purpose To Recognize - vs. 6-7

- not just a great idea to pass down the right things -

It is a Biblical Mandate!

Why?

* Reach Them For Christ

* Teach Them About Christ

* Lead Them To Serve Christ

- * To Provide - 1 Tim. 5:8
- * To Protect
- * To Punish
- * To Promote (Encourage)
- * To Pray

- You are handing something down - Make Sure It's The Things
That Really Count!

Marc Colton's song

"The Things We've
Handed Down"