

# Eleven Things For Fathers

Sunday AM 06/17/18

## Introduction:

Being today is "Father's Day" I thought it appropriate to write on the subject. Going back over some old articles I had written an article about my Dad and lessons he taught me. I wrote one article using the acronym FATHER to describe the qualities one should have. But I kept on thinking about the recent birth of our Grandson and his father, Jon.

**I) Appreciate Your Own Father, *Hebrews 12.9* --The decisions and sacrifices he made was for your benefit.**

- A. Often children don't have the ability to comprehend what their parents are doing for them.**
- B. Only after having your own child will you understand your earthly father.**
- C. The Hebrew writer makes the comparison of our earthly fathers to our Heavenly Father.**
  - 1. Only as we mature and grow do we come to understand the decisions God for our benefit.
  - 2. The plan of Redemption in the Garden of Eden, choosing of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, giving of the Law of Moses, etc.

**II) Love will take on a new meaning-- Your children will teach you a different kind of love.**

- A. It is the Agape love in the Bible. The love that will make sacrifices for the benefit of others.**
- B. The kind of love that will forgive and seeks only the best for the other person.**
- C. You will know what it means to be loved when you hear the word "daddy" or when they come up to you hugging your leg as you come home.**
- D. Love is the why behind our salvation.**
  - 1. Love is why God sent His Son to die for us, *John 3.16*.**
  - 2. Love is why Jesus went to the cross, *John 15.9*.**

**III) Children Are Consuming Creatures-- Time, energy, and money**

- A. Child rearing requires time- fed them, dress them, change them, get the diaper bag ready, pick up the toys, etc.**
- B. School trips, ballgames, talks, friends, all require time and energy.**

**C. God requires our time and energy.**

1. To work out our salvation with fear and trembling,  
*Phil. 2.12*
2. To pray, to learn, to serve.
3. There is a real cost of being a Christian and that is being the cross.

**IV) Being a Father is A Privilege with Responsibility-- It is your job and duty to teach them, *Ephesians 6.4.***

- A. Be the spiritual head of the family. Their understanding of God is influence by you.
- B. Be the role model as a husband/father/Christian.
- C. Being a Christian is a privilege and has its responsibilities. To be called children of God, *1 John 3.1.*

**V) Enjoy every stage of your children's lives-- Joy at seeing those first steps, hearing those first words.**

- A. Parenting has a lot of joy in it.
- B. Don't look back as much as live in the moment.
- C. Enjoy your time of being in God's family.

**VI) Be ready to answer questions. Why? How? When? Where? Etc.**

- A. Be ready for the unexpected- sick children, visits to the school, bumps, bruises, etc.**
- B. We are told to be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us, *1 Peter 3.15*.**

**VII) Be Calm and Keep Things In Perspective-- Don't get upset over things that don't really matter**

- A. Size of the swing set, whether your child is the star of the team, etc.**
- B. The trials of this life are temporary.**

**VIII) Laugh and Cry Together-- Laughter is good medicine, *Proverbs 17.22a*.**

- A. It means everything will be OK, I like you.**
- B. Crying means I care about you.**

**IX) Work Together As A Family**

- A. Parents must be on the same page when it comes to child rearing.**

- B. Working with your children will give you influence in their lives. "A little leaven, leavens the whole lump" can be a good thing.

X) Communicate -- Spend time communicating with your children.

- A. To paraphrase *Deuteronomy 6*—Talk to them when they get up and when they go to bed. Talk to them when are about to leave the house and when they get back home.
- B. Listen to what they are saying and how they say it.
- C. Too many parents lose their children due to poor communication.

XI) Remember Your Wife