

Introduction:

There is a book with the title “Rich Man/Poor Man” which contrasted and compared two fictional brothers. I got to thinking about not preaching about father’s today due to the fact I have just about preached on it from every angle I could think of. But I decided to simply compare and contrast bad dads with good dads. Keep in mind no father except one is perfect but there are things men do which either hinders or helps their children grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

I) Commitment

A) **Bad dads lack commitment to their families.**

1. They lack commitment to their marriage vows, to providing for their families, and their children.
2. Our society makes it easy for men to be AWOL.
3. Resulting in children without a father. Look at our society and you will see the words of **Joshua 21.25** in action.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- a. Children grow up with a lack of commitment in their lives. Lack of understanding about authority.
- b. One startling stat is 85% of those in prison grew up without a father in the home.

America's crisis is a lack of fathers posted June 17, 2022
<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/america-crisis-fathers>

- United States Census Bureau shows that nearly 18.5 million children grow up without their fathers, which has in return led to the United States owning the title of the world’s leader in fatherlessness.
- Approximately 80% of single-parent homes are led by single mothers;

therefore, leading to nearly 25% of our youth growing up without a father in the home.

- 85% of children and teens with behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes,
- and over 70% of all adolescent patients in drug and alcohol treatment centers originate from homes without fathers.
- children without fathers at home are nine times more likely to drop out of school and represent 90% of all homeless and runaway children
- data shows that children without a father in the home are five times for likely to live in poverty than a child in a two-parent household.

B) Good dads are committed to

1. Their marriages.

Matthew 19:4 ***And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."***

2. To providing for their homes.

1 Timothy 5:8 ***But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.***

3. A sense of commitment to their children. Which goes along with everything else in this lesson.

II) Involvement

A) Bad dads are not involved.

1. It is possible to be there but not be actually involved with your children.
 - a. Recognizing generational differences in what was

expected of dads.

- b. Also the fact there are limitations in time.
2. Some dads are simply not involved with their children. Don't hug them or talk with them.
3. There tends to be a lack of discipline (instruction).

B) Good dads are involved.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

1. Bring them up- rear them, grow them in the training and admonition of the Lord.
2. Simple things – being at the awards assembly, the band concert, going to a ballgame.

III) Priorities

A) Bad dads teach their children to value and serve the wrong things.

1. They are like King Manasseh, sacrificing their children to a false god.

2 Chronicles 33:6 Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

2. Today some teach their children to worship the all-mighty dollar.
3. Some teach them to dedicate their lives to a particular sport.
4. The altar of education becomes their god.

B) Good dads teach their children to put God first.

1. To value their soul and their relationship with God.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

2. To use their income to serve God.

1 Timothy 6:18 *Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

3. To use their talents and time to serve God, to seek ways to do more instead of less in serving God.

1 Thessalonians 4:9- *But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;*

IV) Communication – Listening

A) Bad dads don't listen

1. Communication is a two-way street and requires listening.

James 1:19 *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;*

2. A listening dad means you care, willing to take the time, want to understand.
3. In order to answer the question you have to know the question.

B) Good dads listen.

Proverbs 18:13 *He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.*

Proverbs 17:28 *Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.*

V) Things

A) Bad dads substitute things for themselves.

1. We have all seen the movies where the rich kid gets things because his parents have no time for them.
2. This happens on a smaller scale in many families. Very little family time together.

3. Most children don't need more things. They need relationships.

B) Good dads have personal relationships with their children.

Deuteronomy 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **8** "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. **10** "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

1. The great philosopher Charles Barkley once said, "I am not paid to be your child's role model."
2. If your children one day can look back and say their dad was the godliest man they have ever known, you will have done a good job being a dad.