

"Words That Could Make or Break a Good Dad"

Someone has said, "Link a boy to the right man and he will seldom go wrong." That adage is even more true when the "right man" happens to be his dad. The influence of a good father cannot be calculated. Wouldn't you agree?

I'm sure many of you are planning a very memorable day for that special father in your life. On June 17, you dads will get showered with those unique gifts from your children. Possible gifts like pink golf shirts, bright ties with fish on them, quaint looking mugs, coupons for a free lutefisk supper or an embossed T-shirt that says, "Dad's Rule!". Before I give away any other "creative" ideas for Fathers Day, may I suggest a great gift? Write a letter! I'm not kidding! Dads don't necessarily want an expensive gift, unless of course it's fifty-yard line seats to watch your favorite NFL football team. There are only fifty-two days until the 2018 season starts. I sure hope my own kids read this! ☺

Nothing is more precious to a dad than to have his children express their love and appreciation through words. When my daughter Andrea was attending Bethel College in St. Paul a number of years ago, she would sneak into my office at church and leave notes everywhere that said, "I love you Dad!" I have found dozens of Post-It Notes everywhere in my office. I still have the one she hid in my Bible on May of 1998, "I love you Dad! You are my hero." Those few words from the heart of my little girl, who now has a Tween, are more precious than any expensive seats to an NFL Vikings game. Recently I came across a rather transparent letter from a son to his father. I hope you will enjoy it.

Dear Dad,

There are so many things I'd like to tell you face to face. I either lack the words or fail to find the time or place. In this special letter Dad, you'll find the feelings that the passing years have left within my heart. They are the memories of my childhood days and all that you have done to make our home a happy place.

I still recall the walks we took, the games we often played and those confidential chats we had while hanging out together. This letter comes to thank you Dad for your constant words of praise and the guidance, you always gave while growing up. No words of mine can tell you Dad, the things I really feel about you. You must know my love for you is lasting, warm, and real.

You made my world a better place and through the coming years, I'll keep these precious memories as cherished souvenirs!

Your Son

Jesus made similar comments about His own father when He prayed in John 17:22-26, *"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

This Father's Day, I invite you who have the joy of sharing a special relationship with your Dad, to write a letter of appreciation for what he has done in your life. He is your friend, your coach, your protector, your teacher, your caregiver and your provider.

You will be amazed how your loving words of encouragement will give your dad the motivation to be the kind of man that God wants him to be. Remember that his powerful influence is the power to keep a kid on the right road . . . no matter how old they are. He's waiting to hear from you this Father's Day.

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