

## Glad to Be Dad

There are many reasons why those of us who are fathers should be thankful to be dads. Here are just a few of them.

First of all, children are a blessing. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 127:3-5, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Secondly, fatherhood itself can be rewarding. The winning home run, the straight A report card and other achievements cause us to swell with pride, but the greatest reward is seeing children grow up to follow the Lord. Proverbs 23:15-16 reads, "My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things."

Thirdly, fatherhood gives us insight into God's relationship to us. Since God is our Father (Matthew 7:11), we can go to His Word and read about His role as Father and thus learn how to be better fathers ourselves (Matthew 7:7-10; Hebrews 12:5-11).

Finally, being a father can teach us how to be leaders. Dads, it is OUR responsibility to bring up our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). When mighty Joshua stood before Israel in Shechem, he made it clear that he considered his leadership in his home to be of primary importance (Joshua 24:15). When the Lord laid out the qualifications for elders in His church, He included that the man must be "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:4-5). There's no telling how many great leaders have been developed by first learning how to lead in the home.

Children, the world sets aside a day every year in which you can show special appreciation to your father but Dad, every day is an opportunity to give thanks to God the Father for blessing you in allowing you to be Dad. What a privilege God has given to you and me!

I don't know the source for the following, but I've had it in my files for years.

### How Fathers Mature

At 4 years: "My Daddy can do anything."

7 years: "My dad knows a whole lot."

9 years: "Dad doesn't know quite everything."

12 years: "Dad just doesn't understand."

14 years: "Dad is old fashioned."

21 years: "That man is out of touch."

25 years: "Dad's okay."

30 years: "I wonder what Dad thinks about this."

35 years: "I must get Dad's input first."

50 years: "What would Dad have thought about that?"

60 years: "I wish I could talk it over with Dad one more time."