

Fathers Must Love Their Children

Children naturally love their fathers, and fathers should naturally love their children. I have some quotes that I'd like to share from some children of various ages:

- A 1st grader: "My dad is the best dad ever. I would kiss a pig for him."
- A 4th grader: "Sometimes as a joke I'll put my stinky socks in his briefcase, so at work the next day he will think of me! He's always at the concerts and plays that I'm in, even though he lives about an hour away."
- A 9th grader: "Although we have a firm foundation, there is one thing I would like to hear more of. I wish my dad would say that he loves me more often. I know he does through his actions. I mean, what kind of dad would do all this for someone he didn't love? But every night before I go to bed I say: 'Night Dad. Love you. See you in the morning.' And he says, 'Uh huh' I wish that sometimes he would say 'I love you' back."

These quotes came from an essay contest by the national Center for Fathering. They call attention to the need for emotional involvement of fathers with their children. In homes that believe the man is the head of the house (as the Scriptures teach in Eph. 5:23; 6:1), emotional involvement has not always reached priority level. The demands of bread winning and discipline have sometimes taken precedence.

This was a problem even in ancient times. The last verse of the Old Testament prophesies of one who "will restore the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." (Mal. 4:6). Luke 1:17 indicates that the man who would accomplish such was John the baptizer, the forerunner of Jesus Christ. God calls fathers to deeply love their children.

Donald