
HOW TO BE A BETTER FATHER

Exodus 20:12—"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:1-4—Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "*Honor your father and mother,*" which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "*that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*" 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:18-21—Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

1. To be a better father I need to dig for more worms.

- Fishing is nature's tranquilizer.
- Fishing takes time!

Ephesians 5:15-17—See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

-Time is given us to use in view of eternity.

-*Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.* Ben Franklin

-Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present.

2. To be a better father I need keep my promises.

Titus 1:2—in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

1 John 3:18—My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

3. To be a better father I need to teach my children how to work.

Proverbs 20:4—The lazy *man* will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and *have* nothing.

Proverbs 24:30-31—I went by the field of the lazy *man*, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down.

Proverbs 26:14—As a door turns on its hinges, So *does* the lazy *man* on his bed.

2 Thessalonians 3:10—For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

4. To be a better father I need to apologize when I blow my cool.

Proverbs 29:11—A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise *man* holds them back.

Ephesians 4:26—"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

1 Peter 5:5—Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*"

-The trouble with letting off steam is that it only gets you into more hot water.

-Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame. Ben Franklin

-Anger is a short madness.

5. To be a better father I must fix the leaks, oil the squeaks, and tighten the hinges.

Ecclesiastes 10:18—Because of laziness the building decays, And through idleness of hands the house leaks.

6. To be a better father I need to cry when my children leave home.

Psalm 127:3-5—Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So *are* the children of one's youth. 5 Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

7. To be a better father leave the back door open and the porch light on.

Matthew 18:21-22—Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Colossians 3:13—bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

-A person's ability to forgive is in proportion to the greatness of his soul.

-Every person should have a special cemetery lot in which to bury the faults of friends and loved ones.

-To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you. Author unknown

8. To be a better father I need to hug their mother everyday.

Ecclesiastes 9:9— Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that *is* your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.

Proverbs 5:18-19—Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

9. To be a better father I need to prepare to meet God one day.

Titus 2:11-14—For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

10. To the children: How to respond to Dad.

- A. Try to say **thank you** more often.
- B. Be **patient** with your Dad — work is probably very hectic for him.
- C. Realize — your Dad has **issues** of his own that are difficult.
- D. Try to be a **giver** — and not a taker only.
- E. Make an effort to **communicate** with him.
- F. Ask him about his childhood.
 1. His **happiest** moment.
 2. His most **embarrassing** moment.
 3. His first **kiss**.
 4. His greatest **fear**.
 5. His idea of a **perfect** day.