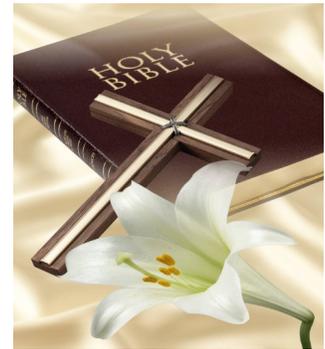


EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY

# E-EMMANUEL

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## EDITORIAL

According to Neuger and Poling (1997), the Million Man March illustrated the desire of many men to atone for past misdeeds and find new models of responsibility in marriage, parenting, church, work and public life. One of the many misdeeds that some men must atone for is that of not being father to their children. On this Father's Day, use the opportunity to make amends to your children because a man is not above being held responsible for his past deeds.

For the many men who have been there for their families, we salute you all for your good work and for taking up the challenge of being good fathers. We also pray that you will continue to commit yourselves to being the needed role models for young men in our society today. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.

*D. Palmer, Chairperson, Communications Committee*

## **The Impact of a Father**

**"There is no substitute for a father's presence,"** says Flanery, associate professor of community and family medicine at Saint Louis University and a father of 10. "The benefits to children are really there to having Dad around." Studies show that the risk of juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, sexual abuse, early pregnancy and dropping out of high school is six times higher for children whose biological fathers are not part of their lives.

**Young children may look at the absence of their father as personal rejection.** "They see not having Dad around as proof that there's something wrong with them. And even in families that have a dad, it's more important for Dad to be there for the child than for him to be working late so the family can afford a fancy vacation every two years. Luxuries are not really what a child needs and wants."

**Fathers become more critical during adolescence.** "Generally, fathers are better at setting limits with teenage boys. Teenage boys who are on the brink of losing control calm down quite a bit by having their fathers show up. "It can keep things from escalating further." **Fathers may be even more important to the healthy development of their teenage daughters.** Girls are more likely than boys to become depressed after puberty. Frequently those feelings are linked to estrangement from their fathers. "They are looking to their fathers to give them a clue about guys. But they miss out if Dad isn't there. In addition, the quality of the relationship between a teenage daughter and her father is predictive of the quality of a committed relationship she will have in her young adult years."

Flanery, whose children range in age from 7 to 27, believes being a dad is one of the hardest things a man can do. "Putting yourself in the field to play is infinitely more worthwhile than not doing it all," he says. **"Just being there is often the best you can do and truly that's plenty."**

Adapted from

<http://www.slu.edu/readstory/more/4432>

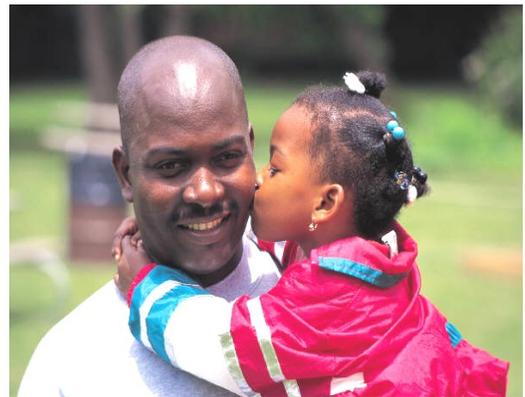
**DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING VIEWS ON BEING A FATHER?**

- |                                                                                  | <b>Agree</b>          | <b>Disagree</b>       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Praising children a lot will make them proud and think only of themselves.    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. What parents say are mostly true, so children should not disobey.             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Teaching children to do homework is the responsibility of the wife.           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Father is the head of a family and should always maintain an image authority. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. It is enough to "love" children with one's heart and not necessary to say it. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. If the father is too kind, the children will disregard his teaching.          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Fathers do not need to attend functions such as PTA meetings                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. When a child is unhappy there is no need to pay attention to them.            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

*If you agree with any of the above, it means you MAY have "outdated" concepts of parenting. These concepts can exert pressure on your children and may even create conflicts, thus affecting communication and relationship between the two generations.*

**To be a good father in a relaxed and easy manner, you can take the following hints:**Be more caring and easy to get close to

1. The father needs to keep company with his children and know every side of them in order to form a close relationship;
2. The father can also show the tender side towards his children;
3. Participate more in the parent-child activities held by the children's schools so as to create more topics of talks of interest
4. Show more comfort and concern to your children.
5. Show more admiration and acceptance
6. Pay more attention to and show admiration for your children;
7. Respect the desires of your children and understand their difficulties;

**A POEM:****TO BE A GOOD FATHER**

*To be a good father, what must one do?  
First one must love, as the sun warms the Earth,  
Nourishing those to whom it gave birth  
With radiant pleasure and joy ever new.*

*And what then, my father, must a good father do?  
Then one must give of oneself, as a rill  
Flings itself carelessly down a steep hill  
To fill up a hollow with heaven's sweet hue.*

*What next, my father, must a good father do?  
Next one must gird up one's loins to protect  
Those who might suffer from want and neglect  
Were one not loyal, and to one's vow true.*

*Is there anything else a good father must do?  
Yes, there is much more that cannot be said,  
Addressed to the heart and not to the head  
Of one who desires that passion to view.  
But ah!, my dear father, that one is not you!*

**We welcome your ideas and suggestions**

**Please e-mail us at**

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**Or write us at:**

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