

Supporting Christian Unity in the Alfred Community



Father's Day 2003

There are so many facets to parenting I wouldn't know where to begin if I were asked to describe fatherhood.

On the lighter side I might throw in a few humorous lessons:

- A 3.5" by 3.5" slice of pasteurized cheese can and will effectively cover over 40 square feet of medium pile carpet if left in the hands of a 1 year old child perched 35" above said carpet in a high chair. Tip ~ Check listings for your local hardware store and seek assistance in the 'Carpet Cleaning' category.
- Contrary to one's assumed knowledge of input vs. output, 1.5 ounces of strained carrots combined with 4.5 ounces of baby formula does not yield 6 ounces of waste but an exponentially larger volume based on factors of production beyond the comprehension of modern economics. Tip ~ Disposable diapers and Air Fresheners are our friends.
- Children can disassemble a variety of household items that Dad's cannot reassemble. Tip ~ If the cumulative value of everything in your home exceeds the amount of rent for a storage unit for a period of no less than 4 years take everything you own to a separate location.
- Baby's first shoes should *never* be leather 'Saddle Shoes'. Tip ~ Do not hold the baby on your lap if 'Nana and Poppa' buy Saddle Shoes for the baby lest daddy and baby are both drooling in the photos named "Babies first shoes."

Reflecting on the more serious side of parenting I would share the following:

- Remember those lighter moments because they lend joy and perspective to the issues you may face later in life while rearing your children.
- Avoid being reactionary when behavioral issues need to be addressed and if you make this mistake don't be afraid to admit you were wrong if you were indeed wrong. Take the time to explain your expectations clearly in each circumstance and define desirable outcomes for future challenges.
- Seek wisdom from your Father in Heaven for all situations you may encounter. Remembering that no matter what you may be experiencing with your child/children, no matter how frustrating it may seem, no matter how overwhelming the situation may appear... stay the course.

God is never surprised by your current state of affairs and He never says, "Gee, I didn't see that coming." Your Father knows your current circumstances and He has a plan for you and your child/children. Ask for His wisdom and guidance and He will see you and your family through anything the enemy has thrown at you.

Every test and trial that comes your way has been filtered through the loving fingers of the One who created you and your children. He alone knows our strengths and weaknesses and He alone knows the skills and gifts He has bestowed upon us to see us through. We need to listen to the mighty counselor He has placed within us and rebuke the temptations to lean on our own understanding in these times of learning for His sake, for our sake and for the sake of our children.

The Bible tells us, ² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." ~ James 1:2-5 So be patient as your Father in Heaven has been patient with you and know that He is at work behind the scenes.

Friends, I don't know what you may be facing today as parents but I want to encourage you to stay the course. God had a specific purpose for blessing you by giving you that child/children. No matter how unsure or even confused you may feel focus on your Father ~ He will strengthen you and lift you up and guide you through.

And to the Fathers out there... May God Bless You All and Happy Father's Day!