

God's Idea of a Great Dad

Psalm 103:13 (KJV) Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

Psalm 103:13 (MSG) As parents feel for their children, God feels for those who fear him.

Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4 (NLT) And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.

What makes a bad dad? Bad dads are ...

- Invisible
- Impossible
- Inconsistent

1. A great dad is a PROVIDER for his family.

- He must responsibly provide for his family's physical needs.
- **1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)** If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- He "manages" his family so they can get the most out of life.
- **1 Timothy 3:4 (NIV)** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

2. A great dad is a MINISTER to his family.

- He must lovingly provide for his family's spiritual needs.
- **Colossians 3:21 (MSG)** Parents, don't come down too hard on your children or you'll crush their spirits.
- He "ministers" to his family by giving himself to them.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:8 (LB)** We loved you dearly – so dearly that we gave you not only God's message, but our own lives too.
- What you ARE always determines what you DO.
- What you DO always wins over what you SAY.
- A father teaches his children how God ACTS and REACTS.