

PFOX

The Official Newsletter of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

The Power of a Father's Love

By Robert Knight and Regina Griggs

It's no secret that families depend in many ways on the involvement of fathers.

A striking illustration of this can be found in America's prisons, where charitable groups donate greeting cards for inmates. Mother's Day cards are quickly snatched up, while Father's Day cards go unclaimed. Most of the inmates either had a bad relationship with their dads or never even knew them.

Likewise, we can trace many social ills, including sexual problems, to the demise of strong marriages and the absence – physical or emotional – of husbands/fathers in the household.

This is not to say parents are to blame whenever a child goes astray. Far from it. Everyone is responsible for his or her own behavior. Even in the strongest, most loving families, some children choose a difficult, self-destructive path. But the pattern is generally clear; where there's sacrificial love and long-term commitment, there are usually fewer problems of all kinds. And when there are problems, there's a safety net of familial support, especially where the parents turn to Jesus for His boundless love.

At PFOX, our message has always been to rebuild bridges, not to point fingers.

The idea of sacrificial love has been under attack since the 1960s, when the "counter-culture" told us to



Photo: Adobe Stock

concentrate on our own happiness, even if it was at the expense of others. The Me Generation absorbed this lesson and went on to create a society in which sacrifice was for losers, not the hip, cool, with-it people.

Popular culture was chockful of TV shows, movies and novels that made fathers out to be dim-witted suckers. There are far more Fred Flintstones than Andy Griffiths. And we still have Homer Simpson, whose childlike persona is tempered by his sensible wife Marge and even his daughter Maggie. On the up

side, Homer often puts his family first, and phoniness is always smacked down.

Today, after a couple of generations of cultural messaging that kids know better than their dads, we're reaping the whirlwind. The same forces that urged us to look inward for inspiration instead of toward a loving Creator God are telling us that we no longer need God at all, just a bigger, more centralized government to take care of everyone.

Schools once taught children to respect their elders and to love their country. Now, under the tutelage of

teachers pushing Critical Race Theory, the LGBTQ agenda and other offshoots of cultural Marxism, children are becoming confused at younger and younger ages.

The big lie we've been told since the Great Society began offering welfare checks to replace dads is that fathers aren't important and that government programs can always make up the difference. In communities where this transfer of responsibility became a way of life – inner city America – the wreckage is visible for anyone to see.

The deadly, rolling riots and crime waves throughout 2020 and into 2021 following George Floyd's death are just the most obvious evidence to date that wrong-headed policies can wreak havoc.

Strong fathers, grandfathers

and other male authority figures are desperately needed to stem the tide away from dependency and back toward personal responsibility.

An ad campaign by Family Research Council a few years ago used powerful imagery to make a singular point: Kids need their fathers. One ad showed a black man in front of a mirror shaving, with a young boy at his elbow, looking up at him. The text said, "All he wants to be is the man in the mirror."

Children of all ages are desperate for role models. Girls look to their mothers for how to act as a woman; they look to their dads to see how they should be treated by men. Boys look to their moms for emotional support and unconditional love; they look to their dads for clues on how to become a man.

Male and female dynamics are quite different, and children benefit from having a mom and dad in the household so they can observe four important relationships: between husbands and wives; between moms and dads; between a parent and same-sex child and a parent and opposite sex child.

We have to reclaim America one household at a time, and we can start by honoring fathers who take their responsibilities seriously. Here's to those dads who love their families more than themselves and show it every day.

Happy Father's Day 2021.

Thanks for your continued support of PFOX and may God bless you.

Regina

Bring Back the Family Dinner



In every episode of the superb, long-running CBS series "Blue Bloods," about a New York family devoted to police work, NYPD Commissioner Frank Reagan, played by Tom Selleck, holds court at a Sunday family dinner.

At the other end of the table sits his father, Henry Reagan, played by Len Cariou. The elder Mr. Reagan preceded Frank as commissioner. The rest of the family is on either side of the table. Despite some heated discussions, the love and firm direction of both Frank and Henry steer the family back to solidarity every time.

The show is also unusual for TV in that the strongly Christian family is shown praying at every meal.

Two things are going on here: the importance of a regular family dinner as a place to reconvene family regardless of what happens outside, and the dedication of fathers who speak truth in love.

More than ever, American households could benefit from regular family dinners, if not nightly, than at least weekly. Common sense tells us why this is important, but scientific research also informs us.

A study cited by the Partnership to End Addiction found that children who regularly attended family meals were less likely to sink into depression or get into illicit drug use. In addition, frequent family dinners correlated with good relationships between teens and their fathers.

The researchers found that teens who were comparably less close to their dads were:

- **Almost 4 times likelier to have used marijuana**
- **Twice as likely to have used alcohol**
- **2.5 times as likely to have used tobacco**

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that children who eat with their family five to seven times per week reported mostly As and Bs in school.

Finally, the American Society for Nutrition found that children who ate out more often were more inclined to be overweight. Fast foods are notoriously full of larger portions, fats and sugars. Family dinners are usually far healthier.

It's also a great time to share one's faith with children. For a lot of reasons, let's set the table for stronger families. —Robert Knight

Family & Friends Prayer List | Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara, Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul, Bobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond, Kesha, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim, David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce, Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario, Miranda Marie, Sarah, Seth and Rob, Kent, Tim.