

DON'T BE A DUD – BE A DAD
By Dr. Bill Bennett
June 17, 2005 - 1 Cor. 16:13 (Play the Man)

The USA is rapidly becoming a nation of “Duds, not Dads.” What is the difference? A Dad is a father who takes responsibility for his family. A “Dud” is a father who will not take responsibility for his family.

Statistics: 40% of children live in fatherless homes. Millions of others live in homes where the father is physically present but is spiritually, intellectually and emotionally absent.

Fact: The major crisis of our time is the “Fatherless Home.” Most of the crime and moral collapse of our society can be traced back to the “Fatherless Home.”

Illustration: Just prior to her death, Lucy Ricardo was asked by Merv Griffin on TV, “Lucy, what has happened to our homes?” She immediately replied, “Papa is absent; if papa were present, he would fix it.”

Question: If you are a biological father, how can you be a Dad and avoid the supreme tragedy of being a “Dud?” Please note 12 guidelines based upon the Scriptures and my own experience as a father for fifty years:

1. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TAKE GREAT PAINS to get your priorities right in the home:
 - (Priority #1) Your personal devotion to God
 - (Priority #2) Your partnership with your wife
 - (Priority #3) Your parenting of your children
 Illus.: from my own home.
2. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TAKE SERIOUSLY the fact that you represent God to your children. Ponder carefully Proverbs 17:66 and 1 Cor. 11:7. Read paragraphs one and two, p. 1 in the booklet.
3. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you MUST TEACH your children the Scriptures as a way of life. Ponder Deut. 6:4-9. Use every opportunity to employ the Scriptures: Example: Traveling verse: Psalm 121:8; Word before meals: 1 Tim. 4:5
 - (a) Book for Beginners by Dr. Bill Bennett
 - (b) Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle by Steve Arterburn
4. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TURN the hearts of your children to Jesus as Lord and Savior. This is your highest privilege and awesome responsibility. You can only do so if you are born again yourself. Illus.: Enoch began to walk with God after the birth of Methuselah, Genesis 5:22

5. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must THRILL your children by becoming involved in their lives. You play two roles: Coach and Player – Read pp. 10-12 in booklet.
6. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TALK to your children affirmingly. Verbal affirmation helps your child:
 - (a) physically
 - (b) emotionally
 - (c) spiritually - Read pp. 4-7 in pamphlet
7. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TOUCH your children tenderly. Read pp. 2-4 in pamphlet.
8. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you should TREASURE your child as God's greatest gift to you, after eternal life, and attach to his life the highest value. Read point III, pp. 6-7.
9. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TANTALIZE (hold before their eyes) your children with the glorious promise God has given concerning their future. Golden texts: Psalm 84:11b and Jer. 29:11. Consult pamphlet pp 7-9, point IV.
10. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must TURN your children over to the Lord by prayer. Personal illustration. Never forget: "When we work, we work; when we pray, God works."
11. To be a Dad, not a Dud, you must be willing to TRAIN your children by "tough love." Discipline is politically incorrect but divinely commanded – Prov. 13:24. To withhold corporal punishment when needed is not love but hatred. "Bring your children up in the discipline and instruction in the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4 NASV).
12. Finally, my dear fathers and fellow strugglers, when you have done all the above, you can TRUST your children into the hands of an all loving and just heavenly Father. That is, place them on the altar and wait for God to perform a miracle in His timing.