

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”  
(I John 3:1 NIV)

It has now been 27 years since my father passed away. That is hard to believe. He was such a great figure in my life it seems like only yesterday that I was a little boy with him. The memories are so vivid: riding around with him in his truck, going on vacations, being with him in his garden, working with him as he “piddled”, talking with him about his Washington Redskins and Atlanta Braves.

I can contrast that with some things in my life which I can hardly remember at all. And I ask myself what is the difference? The difference can be summed up in two words: influence and respect. My dad had a great influence on me as a young person and that has become part of who I am today. I respected my dad because he earned that respect. He was not perfect, as no dad is, but over the years I observed him and learned from him and through those experiences he earned my respect.

To be influential and respected should be the goal of all fathers and father figures. Our desire should be to be men who young people look up to and learn from. In order to do that we must also see ourselves in the role of the child to our Father in heaven. God our father is not just the one who created us, but he is the one who has loved us and taught us through the years. As fathers and father figures we should remember that all the time.

The Bible talks about this several times. In Galatians 4:7 it says:

“So you are no longer a slave, but God's child;  
and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”

It's not something we think about very often but in order to be a father we have to realize we are a child – a redeemed and adopted child of God. As fathers and father figures let us all remember that our guidance comes from above. With that point of view, we can be the leaders we should be: influential and respected.

Dad (by Karen K. Boyer)

He never looks for praises  
He's never one to boast  
He just goes on quietly working  
For those he loves the most  
His dreams are seldom spoken  
His wants are very few  
And most of the time his worries  
Will go unspoken too  
He's there...A firm foundation  
Through all our storms of life  
A sturdy hand to hold to  
In times of stress and strife

A true friend we can turn to  
When times are good or bad  
One of our greatest blessings,  
The man we call Dad.

Have a great month and Happy Father's Day,

Pastor Tim