

Someone asked me once what the best lesson I ever learned from being a Dad. But before I answer that, let me say something about my girls.

I have three daughters who are now grown up and out of the nest. It has always been my pleasure - and honor - to call them my girls. It still is. I suspect that I have caused them a lot more grief and embarrassment than they have me. They were not perfect children, but they were not raised to be. I don't think any of them will be on the cover of Time magazine, but I am certain that they will not be on the FBIs Most Wanted list, either. Everybody who knows my girls loves them. They have few, if any, enemies. They are simply good people who work hard and are very considerate towards those around them.

As their Dad, my love for my girls is thorough and without blemish. There is no scenario that would ever make any one of my daughters not welcome in my home. I can think of no situation where I would ever turn my back on my girls. There is nothing they could ever do to make me stop loving them.

I have never wanted my girls to fear me. I wanted them to know that they can always come to me with whatever is on their heart and know that I will not judge, but listen. I may not be able to solve their problems, but at least I can always present to them the options for what they face.

There have been many times when they have gone through some tough spots where I have been frustrated because they didn't come to me for comfort, advice or simply a shoulder to cry on. But I also take pride in their ability to work through those difficult times and appreciate their confidence in being able to solve their own problems.

I have never taken pleasure in seeing them learn their lessons the hard way. I have always encouraged them to think and try to learn the lessons of life without having to go through any valleys.

I celebrate their successes for as long as I can and move quickly to forgive and get past any bad times.

So when asked what important lessons I have learned from being a Dad, my answer is simple.

If a regular guy like me has this kind of love for his children, then how much more must God have for His children?

We have a pretty sad perception of God I think. So many people live in fear that if they don't walk the perfect path, God will be ready to punish them and punish them hard.

I cringe when I hear people say that God took them through some horrible valley in life so that they would learn a lesson.

And it breaks my heart to hear people say that God does not listen or answer prayers.

Being a Dad has made my spiritual walk a much more rewarding and profound celebration of God.

There is nothing special about me. I am simply a guy who has done a good job of being a Dad to three young ladies.

God is love defined. God's love for us is so much greater than we can comprehend. He doesn't want us to fear Him. He doesn't want to take us through valleys in order to teach us a lesson. He doesn't want us to feel He is unapproachable or that He doesn't hear our voice. And I am bewildered at people constantly praying for Gods will in their life. Gods will for us has always been the same. He wants us to be happy and at peace with ourselves and those around us.

I know that my love for my daughters is special and without blemish. It is such a joy to know that everything I have said about my daughters, God has said about me ten fold.

Now that's some powerful love.

Just A Thought