



The Legacy of a Father

What does becoming a dad and being a father mean to you? Is there a difference?

If you were to ask your child, “what does a good father do?” what do you think they would say?

Becoming a father isn't just a title or a biological event. It's an active lifelong role that shapes your child's growth, values, principles and future. It's your job to show up – not just physically, but emotionally, spiritually, financially, and mentally.

Having the duty as a father doesn't just mean providing financially. It means being reliable, involved, and proactive. It means showing love through your actions, even when you can't be there in person. Being a father is owning your choice, your mistakes, and most importantly – your commitment to your children and to do better.

If you've made bad choices that caused distance between you and your child, it's still on you to fix it. Being a father means being accountable, even when it's hard. It's about making decisions with your child's future in mind, every single time.

Fatherhood isn't just about giving life – it's about giving love, wisdom, guidance, and protection. It's about teaching your child how to walk in the world with confidence and character. Fatherhood is the essence of manhood – because a real man builds something special that lasts.

Your greatest strength as a man isn't in control or fear. It's in the love and guidance you provide. What you pour into your child – that's your legacy. Ask yourself? If your child could choose between your time or your money, which would they pick?

They may forget the toys you gave them, but they'll never forget the lessons you taught.

Gifts can't replace your guidance. You can be present, no matter where you are. You can call, email and even write to share wisdom of love or to drop a few jewels on them. Ask them questions, but more importantly, just listen to them. Be more present in whatever capacity you can – because a father's love is a child's treasure.

Don't use your children as an excuse for destructive choices and behaviors. You know our favorite sayings, "I had to hustle to take care of my child," "I didn't have any other means or choice," those are the lies we tell ourselves to avoid facing reality. But the true reality is this: Crime doesn't guarantee stability. All it does is cause death, pain, incarceration, and separates you from those who you said you were doing it for in the first place.

The best way to provide for your children is to be a positive role model and a beacon of hope.

As men, we stand on the principles of being fathers, and that's a F.A.C.T.



This is a message from the F.A.C.T. Experience Promotional/Marketing Committee



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F.A.C.T. Experience (Fathers And Children Together) is a nonprofit organization that reconnect fathers with their children at SCI Phoenix.