

# FATHERLESSNESS

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## Men – A call to action

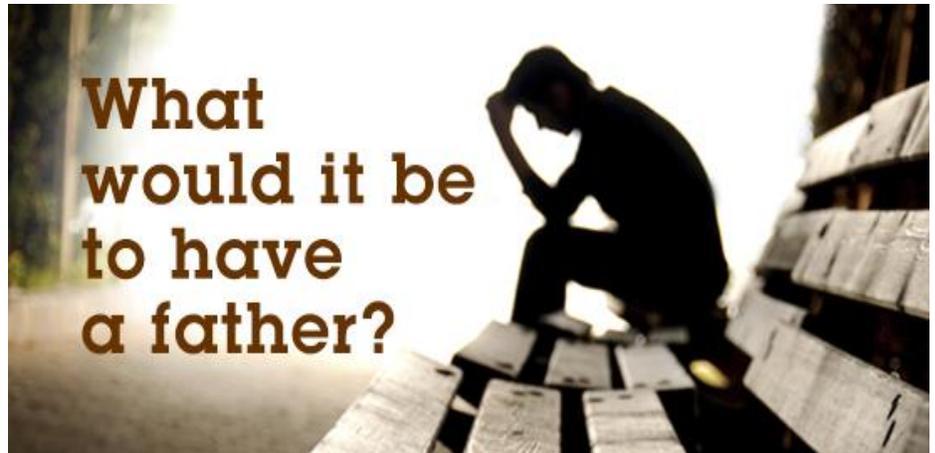
Knock Knock.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_?

Dad?

Helloooooooooooooooooooooo.

Is anyone home?



I sometimes work from home. During lunch, I typically turn on the TV as a reprieve from sitting at a computer and take a short mental break from the day to day. I have a bent for court shows. Now I know one has to be careful regarding reality TV so I take them with a grain of salt. I must admit sometimes I gather helpful information on some of the situations one can find themselves in from a legal standpoint. Sometimes the cases are so outlandish that I just shake my head in disbelief. Two shows in particular deal with paternity and divorce. Given my passion for marriage and children these shows strike a chord. I don't know if these shows are staged or real but one common thread I discovered in these shows is the lack of a strong husband and/or Dad. After seeing this for some time I decided to go on a hunt for truth. What I found was rather alarming and frankly heartbreaking. The research is alarming.

Disclaimer. I am a male. I am a broken male who has failed miserably in my past. I lean on God's grace daily to help me learn from my failures and get better each day at knowing my duties and responsibilities to my wife, my family and my community. I speak not only from research but from experience. This article is not meant to disparage the tremendously difficult job that single women do for their families every day. I beg that this article is read from an unemotional standpoint based solely on facts and not emotion. I may step on some toes. If so, I ask for forgiveness in advance and want everyone to know my intent is not to pass judgement on anyone. Instead, my prayer is that some of this information can create some discussion and reflection on what we men can do to make our world a better place.

This article is about addressing fatherlessness, which I feel is the #1 problem in society today. Fatherlessness can be broken in a number of categories and those numbers can be skewed fit one's agenda. Let's look at a few statistics. It is very important to remember that the criteria for statistics can change which makes it challenging. Due to that reality, I know this can be read with eyes either fixed on the minutia of the details or the broader scope of a larger problem. Let's agree to look at the larger problem and not whether a percentage of a category is 5% off. Is that OK? The following statistics are for homes that have suffered divorce for a myriad of reasons. There are a completely different set of statistics – not better – from homes where there was never a marriage in the first place.

Divorce – In 1960, approximately 5% of American households had children born out of wedlock. In 1969, Ronald Reagan signed a state law in California that allowed for no fault divorce and it soon caught wind across the country. 40 years later the rate of divorce was a staggering 41%. You may hear the current percentage of marriages that end in divorce is 50%. Statistically the divorce rate is lower today but the number of people cohabitating is higher. This is one example of how criteria have had an impact on statistics. Brace yourself. The ride gets real bumpy.

**High school drop-out rate – 71% of high school dropouts are from fatherless homes**

**Drug use – the rate of children in chemical abuse centers from fatherless homes is 75%.**

**Poverty – according to the US Census Bureau, children in father absent homes are 4 times likely to live in poverty. 11% in married couple homes vs 48% in female head households.**

**Suicide – 63%.**

**Emotional health – single mother households show children have rates of behavioral disorders as high as 85%**

**Rapists with displaced anger – 85%**

**Youths that make up prison population – 85%**

**Teen pregnancy – 71%**

**Homeless and runaway children – 90%**

**Have you had enough?** One can spend days searching numerous sites and sources. The numbers will differ slightly from one source to another due to changing criteria as mentioned before. Even if you cut these numbers in half the results are heartbreaking. Please remember, this is not a knock on mother only led households. This is more of a poke in the chest to men who don't understand their importance in the life of their children or walk from their responsibilities. These numbers don't even touch the impact we have on the women we are supposed to uphold, cherish, protect, sanctify and make holy.

**Men, our world, our wives and our children need us.** They need us to get our act together and understand that society is much better when we step up and do what is right. As the old saying goes. Anyone can be a father – it takes someone special to be a Dad. Sadly, there are not a lot of examples in society that emulate and value strong husbands and Dads. We have to search for them. Trust me, they are out there. We are called to love our wives as Christ loves the church and be prepared to be a ransom for her. Who is ready to take back our society and rip it out of the hands of the flesh driven world and lead as God calls us to. I ask all those reading this to accept the mantra of Authentic Manhood.

**An authentic man is one who:**

**Rejects passivity**

**Accepts responsibility**

**Leads courageously and**

**Invests eternally**

**Who is with me?**