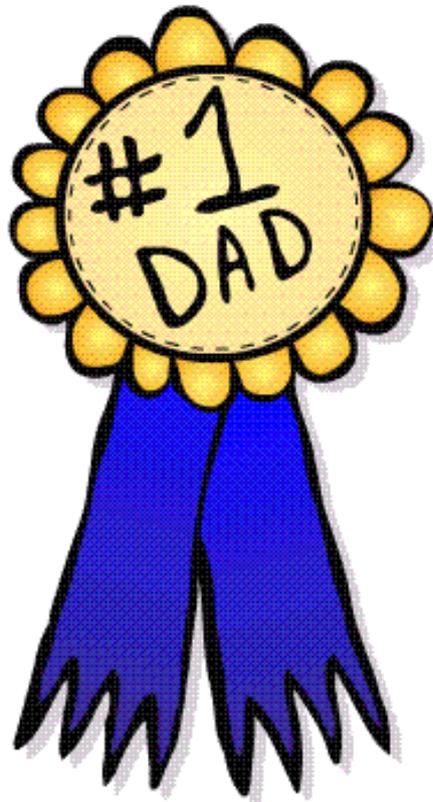


# The Desire of Every Father



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## **Introduction**

While it is a fact that most parents who attend parenting seminars are the mothers, it does not mean that the fathers do not wish to be involved. On the contrary, fathers are keenly aware of their involvement (or the lack of it) but there are certain issues of respect and authority which needs to be ironed out first.

*Leadership at home begins with the father but it is the mother who holds the key.*

The desire of every father is *not* fulfilled by the children – it is fulfilled by the mother of the children. Interestingly enough, the desire of every father can only be fulfilled when the mother cooperates and assist him in a way that respects his leadership and authority. The answer lies in the “respect role” of the wife. More than anything (or anyone else), the desire of every father is intimately linked with his expectation as a husband. What is this “respect role” of the wife?

Note: for the companion report – “*The Desire of Every Mother*”, please download from:  
[http://www.goodmonday.com/uploads/1/0/8/0/10801018/the\\_desire\\_of\\_every\\_mother.pdf](http://www.goodmonday.com/uploads/1/0/8/0/10801018/the_desire_of_every_mother.pdf)

## **Respect Role #1: TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE**

Men are fragile creatures.

Fragile not in terms of strength but fragile in terms of his need for *admiration*. Think about it – men who are not admired at home will seek it elsewhere – the most tragic of this “outside admiration” comes with a label called – “having an affair”.

*In order for the father to rise up to his role as a leader, the wife needs to first respect him as one.*

No husband has ever risen up to his potential through the constant nagging and comparing that comes from the wife. In fact, the reverse is true, the more negative remarks are levelled against the husband, the less effective he will play his role as a father. Let’s face it, mothers – your words and encouragement set the “temperature” at home – both for your children *and also for your husband*.

**Here’s the desire of the father (and the husband!):** The husband *wants* to play a pivotal role in parenting the child but he needs *respect* from the wife. Respect is the “air” by which men breathe and if this is not present within the home – you can expect that men will seek for alternatives. You do not have to wait for a major heroic deed before you respect your husband but be on the lookout to recognize daily deeds. Speak well of your husband in front of your children. Create a positive image for your husband and you will create that environment which will inspire his confidence and motivate him to grow.

## **Respect Role #2: TO INVOLVE DECISION-MAKING**

Men love to provide solutions.

Gather a group of ladies and you will very quickly hear words of *feelings* being shared around. Get a group of men together and you will promptly hear a lot of *facts* being tossed about. There is something innate within men that we seek to give answers (sometimes this works to our detriment when the wife just needs a listening ear!).

**Here’s the desire of the father:** While it is the mother who generally has more information about what’s happening in the child’s life, details about schedules, activities, classes, etc – the father can still be involved if the mother take the step to brief the husband and then sincerely seek his input and value his decision. When the mother takes over *all* decision making responsibilities, she has just sidelined the husband to being a spectator and not a key player. Learn to value the input and thinking of your husband and you will gain the active participation of a father.

### **Respect Role #3: TO INSTILL AUTHORITY**

Men like titles.

As mentioned in the previous report, most juvenile crime statistic can be traced to a home with an absent father. In other words, the child who grows up without the right authority figure at home would most likely end up having trouble relating to other authority structures as well – in school, at work and in life.

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The challenge for the couple at home is that of *authoritative unity*. Usually, the mother is the one who holds to a higher standard of discipline at home, and when confronted, the child flees to the father, who unfortunately may have a *lower* standard. So, parents end up playing the “good cop, bad cop” game and nobody wins – well, may except the child!

***The child has no recourse but to obey if both parents hold on to the same ground.***

**Here’s the desire of the father:** It undermines the authority of the father if the mother regularly disagree or override the father’s decision – especially in front of the child. Parents – you may not realize it but your child is constantly watching how the both of you relate to each other.

Here are a few practical steps for the mothers:

1. Put the child to bed early so that you and your husband can converse and “argue” through discipline standards while the child is asleep. When the child wakes up, you are ready with your “united policy”!
2. Unless it is a matter of critical importance, learn to defer the decision to your husband – long term, it is to your child’s benefit that she thinks highly of her father.
3. Speak well of your husband (especially if he is not around) to the child.
4. Learn to compliment your husband. Instead of nagging him on what he did not do, learn to praise him for what he has already done. Remember, a little *admiration* goes a long way!
5. Certain discipline consequences can be assigned to your husband for “execution”. You do not have to carry all the discipline burden on your own. Learn to let go on certain areas and be willing for your husband to take over.

### **Conclusion**

From this report, it is evident that most child problems actually stem from parent-related issues. When couples start to support each other first as husband and wife, then their resolve and determination as father and mother will gain new energy and momentum.

This is all neatly summed up in the words of a speaker at a recent women’s conference :

*Without love, she will not submit.  
Without respect, he will not lead.*

The desire of every father and the desire of every mother find its fulfilment in a strong marriage. Effective parenting is an outcome of this strong foundation. Think about it.

For more character lessons, check out : <http://www.goodmonday.com/parenting.html>