



Dr. Dennis Perman ::

Message of The Week



A Day For Fathers

June 16, 2014

Dear Doctor:

Though the first known father's day card dates back 4000 years to ancient Babylonia, it wasn't until 1910 that Sonora Dodd of Spokane, WA, campaigned for the establishment of a special day for dads. I'm certainly glad she did, since for me of late, Father's Day has taken on a richer significance.

I am so grateful that the relationship between me and my own father has deepened over the years, even more so since my mom has passed on. The wisdom and perspective I used to resent and bat away now has become central to my decision-making, a vital part of my daily consciousness. My dad's good judgment, service orientation and sense of humor are key components of my success.

Looking in the other direction generationally, I observe my dear son, now a father in his own right, rising to the occasion, being a strong and supportive role model for his beautiful daughter, my grandchild. It's inspiring to see the circle of life played out with such dexterity, commitment and love.

Is this holiday just a fabrication so Hallmark can move a mountain of product, or can we tap into a more profound meaning? What's important about being a father, anyway? Is the responsibility something we invent to feel needed, and would our children turn out fine no matter what we do? Or is our guidance essential in some way to the ultimate development of our offspring?

I like to think that my input counts for something, but the trick is to not expect overt evidence of this too soon. I was thirty before I really appreciated all my parents had done for me, forty before I could express it, fifty before I was able to see myself in it. Now, at sixty, every conversation with my father or my sons offers the promise of new connection and new insight, but it is the culmination of decades of experience and evolution.

I watch my children batting away my advice just like I did with my dad, and while it used to perturb me, now I recognize it as a necessary part of the rhythm of maturity. I used to joke that as I got older, it seemed that my folks got smarter, but the truth is that they were smart all along, and I grew into understanding it. I now see the same thing happening in my own lineage, and instead of being irritated by it, I would do better to acknowledge the natural rightness of it.

I realize that I am doubly blessed to have both a father and children – many cannot say the same. So we must never take for granted the opportunities presented to us, or the clues success leaves for us. Sometimes, they show up in the darnedest places – like a comment from an old man who just so happens to have your best interests in mind, or feedback from a kid who seems resistant but is actually just claiming space that is rightfully his.

If you are fortunate enough to have a father or to be one, pay attention – there are lessons and distinctions galore that may only become visible when you look carefully for them – or else wait long enough so that no one could miss them. Save back the time, and celebrate fatherhood – without it, none of us would even be here.

Dennis Perman DC,
for The Masters Circle

PS - Check out two awesome new boot camps, delivered to your inbox to listen and watch at your convenience – Bob Hoffman's "New Chiropractic Manifesto," with seven top chiropractic neurologists, and my "New Patients Every Day" which shows you how to get new patients every day. These teleclass/webinar series will pay for themselves many times over in increased new patient flow and enhanced clinical skills – invest in them today. For more info or to order, please call 800-451-4514.