

DADS TO SONS : SONS TO DAUGHTERS

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A friend posted this great message by Navaid Aziz on Face Book this morning. I think it well worth sharing.

“We need to teach our daughters the difference between:

- A man who flatters her - and a man who compliments her*
- A man who spends money on her - and a man who invests in her*
- A man who views her as property - and a man who views her properly*
- A man who lusts after her - and a man who loves her*
- A man who believes he is a gift to women - and a man who believes she is a gift to him*

And then we need to teach our sons to be that kind of man.”

The road to becoming the kind of son and daughter that Navaid Azis refers to does not come by chance. These fine qualities in a young man, and the ability for a young woman to make the wisest choice regarding her life partner need to be developed from early childhood right through their teenage years.

So, where do we start? We create strong family values - values that include respect and honor, loyalty and commitment. We need to train our children to understand and demonstrate these values. Not only do we tell them, but we also show them by role modeling the principles or values we stand by. We also demonstrate what it means to be a respectful and loyal friend because, ultimately, your lifetime partner deserves your greatest friendship.

If we consider the percentage of marriage break-ups in the USA today, it would be safe to say that at least half the population has failed at choosing the right partner for life. Where do we go wrong? I suggest that one of the major reasons for such a high set of statistics is that we tend to rush into a relationship prior to knowing the qualities we seek in a person or checking those qualities out prior to commitment. I created a checklist for teens to help them make wise choices in finding that special someone before committing themselves. That list is available on our blogsite (see the link below).

We have a huge responsibility in preparing our children to become loving, respectful, committed spouses and excellent parents to their own children in the future. We have to create and instill strong values in our kids so they can withstand the pressures of a society that is speedily devaluing the family unit. What is the new family ‘norm’? At least half are now blended families. It has often been said that the family is the backbone of our nation – when the family is divided, the nation falls. We need to make a deliberate effort to reclaim our ground when it comes to protecting our marriages and families. This stand

begins when we train our children to possess those excellent qualities that create respect, loyalty and ability to create and maintain lasting love.

I would like to leave you with some words from the John Mayer song

'Daughters.'

*"Fathers, be good to your daughters,
daughters will love like you do.
Girls become lovers who turn into mothers,
so mothers, be good to your daughters, too."*

If you have any comments or questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at sally@forefrontfamilies.org. We invite you to also check out our website at www.forefrontfamilies.org and our blog site at www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com for further assistance.