

TO BE A MAN

Today is a very special day, it is the day we honor fathers.

It takes real courage to stand up and be counted for what is right. But that is exactly what good fathers do.

I want to tell you a true story about a man named Rufus Jones. He was a Quaker mystic who learned very early in life to stand up for what is right.

One morning when Rufus was still quite young, his widowed mother went into town to shop, leaving young Rufus to do some chores which very much needed doing.

The boy fully intended to obey his mother, but the temptation to go fishing instead was too strong.

He was sure that he was going to be severely punished when his mother returned.

Instead, his mother, her voice heavy with sad disappointment, called him to her bedroom. Instead of punishing him, she had him get down on his knees and she knelt beside him. Then with an arm around his shoulder and tears in her eyes, she prayed, "Lord, make a man out of him."

Dr. Jones said that this incident did more to guide his life in a positive direction than any physical punishment could ever have done.

The trouble these days seems to be that there is a great deal of confusion about what it takes to make a man out of anyone.

Many years ago Dr. Charles Trentham and I attended the College of Ministers at Morehouse College at the Martin Luther King Chapel in Atlanta. We were the only white persons to register. Charles said that we were winners because we were the best looking white people present.

Dr. Dexter Wise, who calls himself "The Rappin' Reverend" was one of the speakers.

I can't do it the way he did, but here is part of what he said:

Every little boy wants to be a man,
shave every day as soon as he can,
drive a fast car,
make the women go wild,
turn all their heads as he bops down the aisle.
The problem is to know what kind of man you ought to be,
you don't get much help from just watching TV,
If you want to be a man,
Let me tell you. It's not easy but you can.
Being a man means responsibility,
A father, a husband, and supporting a family.
Want to be a man?
It's not easy but you can.

And of course, the best way to learn what it means to be a real man is to learn from our Heavenly Father.

All of us fathers need someone to pray that same prayer that Rufus Jones' mother prayed for him
"Lord, make a man out of him."

TO BE A MAN IN THE BEST SENSE IS TO LEARN WHAT REAL MANHOOD IS FROM OUR
HEAVENLY FATHER

PRAYER: WE THANK YOU, O GOD, FOR REAL MEN WHO LEARN ABOUT WHAT KIND OF MEN
THEY SHOULD BE FROM YOU. WE THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD INFLUENCE THAT FATHERS
HAVE UPON THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS