

Man Up: A Moral Dilemma

Elder Gavin Montgomery



It is a scenario that is repeatedly played out in any given community around the nation. A young single mother with children in tow - awaiting a bus, walking the aisle of the grocery store or standing in line at local city agencies looking for financial assistance. Unfortunately, this dilemma affects many of our communities regardless of socioeconomic or ethnic backgrounds. Often, it raises the question...Where are the fathers?

In a day and age where gang violence, drugs and penal institutions rotate as umpire in the game of life, we as men are progressively losing the game by not taking full responsibility and “manning – up” when it comes to the care of our children. How long will those who fathered son and daughters continue to ignore the part they play in the ultimate destruction of their offspring? These lost children are left as prey for the streets or to the struggles of single motherhood. I often say that our childhood is the prescript to our adult life-script – in essence, what we experience as children is what we often repeat as adults. The cycle of neglect, low self-esteem, maledictive behavior and all around absence of male involvement in the life of our young men will undoubtedly lead to the destruction of another generation.

Today, I submit a universal challenge to all men and/or fathers who read this blog. I challenge all father’s (and would be fathers) to guarantee the success of another man’s existence, by mentoring, tutoring or just “being” the example of what real men should and can be! Men of integrity, men of character, men of honor, and men of moral fortitude. Start committing yourself to the success of our future, our sons, and daughter. Not by purchasing stuff, but rather by being present in the NOW with your children. Men we should be active; attending parent-teacher conferences, assisting in the completion of schoolwork, and doing so with a genuine interest in the education of our boys and girls. The age-old gift of time is the one thing that all children ultimately seek. A time that allows them to establish their own identity. Time that allows them to define the boundaries of right and wrong and time to dispel the illusions of grandeur that the streets,

For bookings contact:
Kymberly P. Jones
njoyingbling@aol.com or 443-956-1396
Serious Inquiries Only

filled with plenty of temptations from street corner to street corner - so clearly propagate.

Therefore, the question of moral dilemma is at hand. As fathers who are already laying the "prescript" for our sons "life-script," the time has come to pay it forward and assist in the development of the "life-script" of a young boy or man who is in need of the wisdom, knowledge or insight that you have been blessed with. After all, someone at sometime in your sojourn to manhood gave you the keys to a not so distant world of countless revelations in your ability to attain better education, better employment, and better decisions about life, marriage, and even quality of life. Therefore, brothers and father alike – let us do our part to dissolve the dilemma and pay it forward.

Lastly, maybe you are one who has not been as responsible as you could have been or should have been in the life of your son (or daughter). Remember, that the most important lesson in spiritual development is first to acknowledge that you have indeed, made mistakes regarding your full participation in the life of your child (ren). Second, learning to release the past so that you and your children can fully live in the NOW - in the presence of God. I know, by my own personal experience, that we bring our issues to any new beginning, but YOU and YOU alone must choose to bring only the aspects of those previous experiences that add enrichment and upbuilding, bring with you a mindset of "understanding", while releasing yourself from the guilt and regret of "coulda', woulda', shoulda'." As you follow these steps, you and your son (or daughter) will find that not only will the lines of communication be reopened, but also you will be released from any further regret or guilt in knowing that you have closed the door on any further moral dilemma's concerning your responsibility in doing what is right for your son or daughter. I leave you with the eternal encouragement of God's word:

- Ephesians 5:8 – "For once you were in darkness, but now in the Lord, you are in the light."