



A Special Father's Day Message from Zach Tafoya

Pepperdine Human Resources



Human Resources



One of my all-time favorite worship songs is Chris Tomlin's "Good, Good Father." It's one of those songs that randomly pops into my head throughout the week and threatens to leave me choked up on a Sunday morning. I love it because it reminds me of something that is equal parts simplistic and profound: as a child of God, like all of us, being loved by a Good, Good, Father is not an earned perk or fleeting emotion, "it's who I am."

In the short time since I became a father, this song has taken on a new meaning for me. Like our Heavenly Father, I want to be the sort of dad who leaves my kids not just feeling or experiencing love, but *being* loved. Definitionally. I want it to be part of who they are. But when I praise our Good, Good Father for being "perfect in all of Your ways," I can't help but think about how the same cannot be said of me. Nor my own dad. Or any dad for that matter. As much as we might try.

I think that is one of the most beautiful things about Father's Day though: you don't need to be perfect to be invited. And your dad doesn't either. Instead, Father's Day encourages us to take

stock of and celebrate all the imperfect ways dads try over the course of a lifetime to imbue their kids little by little with the truth that they are, at their very core, loved. For me, I think about how my dad coached my little league teams despite little (more likely, zero) interest or baseball experience. About how he woke up at 4:30 every morning so he could be home from work by late afternoon. About how we always ordered water and no dessert at restaurants, and how he only bought clothes once a year (if at all), yet we somehow, *somehow* had the means for the endless extracurriculars that dominated my teenage years. And I think about how, even today, my dad reminds me to change our HVAC filters and sends me how-to videos for the DIY fixes I still haven't fixed.

This Father's Day, let's all do a bit of inventory. Walk down memory lane as you remember the ways your own dad left you knowing you were, and are, loved. And walk alongside those for whom this day is not as celebratory as they would like. As for you dads—keep trying, keep striving to be the good, good fathers we were made to be.

Zach Tafoya

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"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1).



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