



Hey Dads,

You have been on my heart recently. As some of you may know, I am the proud father of a little girl (13 months) and another little one on the way (we do not know the gender). My little girl has yet to begin talking; however, already she has me around her little finger! Even now as I write this to you I can't wait to get home this afternoon to see her giggle with joy as I enter the room in which she will be playing and then to cover her with hugs and kisses that I have been saving up all day just for her.

Recently I read a story about a man who observed children playing on a playground. Since my explanation would not do the story justice, here it is:

I recently had a strange experience when going to our kids' elementary school on a quick errand. I found the boys doing their things (combat games such as prison battleball and football, complete with first grade trash talk and taunting) and girls doing their things (jump rope and monkey bars).

One group of girls caught my attention because they were standing in a close huddle, arm in arm, whispering and gesturing with great animation. It was a private little group that had something very intense going on. Breaking the huddle, they dashed to the foot of the school steps, holding hands, looking at each other, and screaming madly. One girl in this sixsome climbed high up the concrete steps, turned her back majestically to the crowd, and threw her coat over her shoulder to the others. They scrambled and screamed as one girl grabbed the coat and ran. The other girls quickly encircled her and rehuddled, congratulating her, whispering, jumping up and down, and playing with her hair!

Huh? Being a guy, I thought playgrounds were places to demonstrate manhood, not to gather together talking and giggling.

I was able to catch one of these little squealies long enough to ask her what the game was. "We're throwing wedding bouquets to each other," she said. "Whoever catches the bouquet is going to get married, and all the other girls want to talk and dance with her! I've been married four times so far and *it's not even lunch yet!*"

Dads, what I was reminded of as I read this story was that all of our young ladies dream of the day when a Prince Charming (maybe a guy named Billy with a nose and eyebrow ring) will one day ride into her life on a beautiful white stallion (probably a borrowed beat up Buick from his family that used to be white

before the rust took over) and carry her off into the sunset to live happily ever after.

My question to you is this – what standards are you placing in your teen’s life regarding who she will have the desire to marry? Does she have a standard for dating? Have you ever had, “THE TALK”? Does she value you and your opinion enough to care what you think?

My challenge for you is this – begin that process this week. Ask your teen out on a date. Set it in stone on the family calendar and treat her like the princess God created her to be. Talk to her about what values are important when seeking after God’s man for her. Let her know what things would break your heart if she ever allowed them to happen in her relationships with guys. Be open, be honest, allow her to see your love for her as well as her Creator. Create in her a desire to find someone like her father when seeking after a husband – Create a standard.

God bless you, Dads, as we love and serve the princesses God has placed in our care.

In Christ,

Reggie Nichols
High School Pastor

PS – As I was preparing this letter, the issue has come up that many girls within our High School ministry do not have fathers to whom I can send this. Many of them do not have a positive male influence in their lives. Would you prayerfully consider this need? Every teenage girl needs a positive adult male influence in her life – could you be this for another of our teens?