



21st Century Dads

Continued from last edition of PraiseReel

by Wole Akinkumi



Dads and Teenagers

Children need you the most when they are teenagers. They are going through so much with their bodies changing, with their minds wondering about the opposite sex, pressures with having to take exams for the first time, pressure with friends expecting certain behaviours from them that parents or even they might not exactly agree with, pressures at home as parents expect them to act more responsibly etc.

Teenagers rely upon their dads for conversation that reassure them that they are loved for who they are. They are meeting new people, taking on new challenges, getting confused by peer pressure. Simply having a grounded relationship with people who love them and accept them for who they are could be the biggest thing you give your child during adolescence. Having both parents, rather than one, saying the same things to you gives you a greater sense of belief. They can't both be wrong!

It is not only teenage boys that rely on their dads for these things. Teenage girls get guidance about how to relate with boys and later on with men. This can deliver them from many distractions, heart aches, and confusions about how valuable they are. They also learn how to plan for the future from their fathers.

"...praying WITH your children is probably the second most important thing"

Where to get help

Based on the above and from what we wrote in the last edition, you will agree that dads have a very important role to play in the family unit. Even if you are doing very well already, there are many ways to improve if you make the conscious effort to think about them. The Holy Spirit is our main help! The bible describes him as our comforter, helper and teacher. He'll teach you things you don't know. He'll help you offer the exact support that they need. God is the father of all fathers. It makes more sense to get you tips and directions from Him

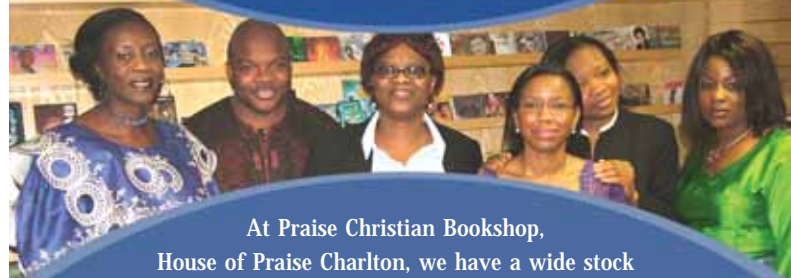
directly. Therefore, being close to God and being prayerful is a major step in being a good parent to your children.

Apart from praying about your children, praying WITH your children is probably the second most important thing. It teaches your children to pray which will come in handy when you're not around, and makes the Holy Spirit the third person in your relationship with each child. Being in a threesome relationship with a person and God is the perfect way to maintain harmony. Your communication with the other person will be impeccable. Believe me, with such a relationship, you shouldn't experience the typical woes of parent/teenage relationships.

Remember... God is counting on you to raise Godly children.

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