

# *The Lakeview Lamp*

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”-Psalm 119:105

June 20, 2004

## **The Little One Like You**

Troy Nicholson

*There are little eyes upon you  
That are watching night and day;  
There are little ears that listen  
To every word you say.  
There are little hands all eager  
To do the things you do;  
And a little boy who's dreaming  
Of the day he'll be like you.  
You're the little fellow's idol,  
You're the wisest of the wise;  
In his little mind, about you  
No suspicions ever rise.  
He believes in you devoutly,  
Holds all that you say and do.  
He will say and do it your way  
When he's grown up just like you.  
You are setting an example  
Every day in all you do  
For the little boy who's waiting  
To grow up to be like you.*

This poem by an unknown author ought to be a sobering reminder of the great responsibility that comes with being a father. While God commands children to honor their fathers (Eph 6:2), he also commands fathers to “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (:4). Fathers, as you receive special honor on this Father’s Day, may you reflect on how well you are living up to the responsibility that God commands of you. He is watching you, and so are your little ones. What are they seeing?

“You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!”—Psalm 68:35

### **Daddies Don’t Baby-sit**

Jeff S. Smith

Before that title makes me yet again the pariah of America's feminists, let me explain: “Daddies don’t baby-sit.”

In most homes, the majority of the day-to-day childcare falls to the suitable arms of the mother. On occasion, however, she is required to be elsewhere or seeks a brief respite. It is then that her husband and the father of her children is enlisted to take charge of the little darlings for a few hours while Mother goes out. Were it some neighborhood teenager or professional childcare surrogate, we would refer to this act as babysitting. When Daddy does the job, however, it is not babysitting; it is called parenting.

When we refer to Dad’s time with the kids as babysitting, we are implying that it is an unusual act of great sacrifice for him to interrupt his important life to change diapers, play dollies, or bandage scraped knees. Indeed, men and woman have different roles in the home, and Daddy is more likely to be the family's breadwinner. Nowhere in God's big manual, however, is Daddy relieved of the responsibility to parent his offspring.

And nowhere is it implied that he deserves special commendation for accepting the burden, especially if he does so infrequently enough that we come to equate him with the babysitter, who tends to visit only once a month or so on a Friday night.

Your Bible, like mine, probably contains a book called Ephesians and a chapter numbered six. In the fourth verse of said chapter, the Holy Spirit instructs: "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

You see, this old-fashioned book is actually way ahead of the curve when it comes to fathering. If your interaction with your kids is comparable to what a babysitter does, you are falling far short of what the Holy Father expects of you. Mama's desire to get out of the house by herself for a few hours should not create a crisis, unless you happen to be suffering from a coma or amnesia or inept parenting skills.

Daddies, make certain that you are taking the lead in the family, especially when it comes to spiritual instruction. It is ungodly for men to leave the burden and blessing of childrearing to their wives to the degree that men think of themselves as babysitters anytime she walks out of the house. Daddies don't baby-sit; they parent. Give it a try!

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"  
(Psalm 118:24).