



EBOOK
FATHERS INCORPORATED

the **HONORABLE** man
FATHERS INCORPORATED

THE HONOR OF FATHERHOOD

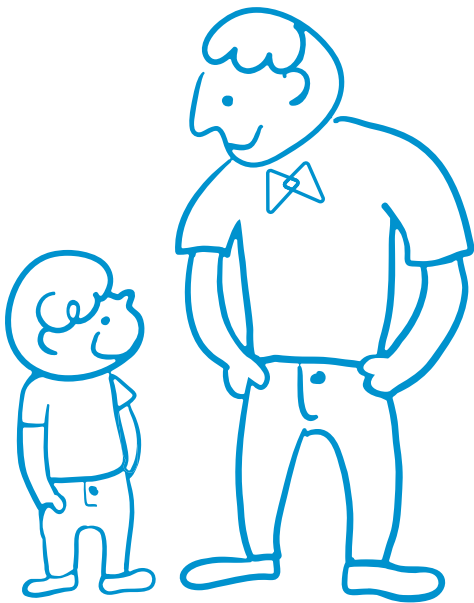
KENNETH BRASWELL



**FATHERS
INCORPORATED**

THE HONOR OF FATHERHOOD

BY KENNETH BRASWELL



Today we find ourselves more than ever attempting to balance the life we have with desires of the life we crave. The family dynamic is ever changing and with that the structure that we believe is our traditional family is quickly fading. Throughout the last 40 years, our country has begun to redefine “what is family?” During that process we have made some awesome strides in understanding the need to recognize and empower the strengths of women/moms. Today women, all over the nation, are earning more, accomplishing more, and are being recognized for more. Today the way we look at women and moms is vastly different from the way we viewed them in the 50’s and 60’s.

But what we have not done is to take a critical look at the existing and juxtaposing definition of men/fathers. Somehow, in the same 40 years, that we have acknowledged the changing roles of woman/mothers, we have done almost nothing to address the evolving definition of what it means to be a man/father in this rapidly changing world. We revere the good old days where we believe men were real men; they worked long and hard to earn a living and took care of their families. It is the image of that man that has contributed to the need to redefine the traditional roles of women.



It is our contention that there are varying opinions around the criticalness and the value of fathers in the life of their families. However, we all can reasonably agree that we need them in the picture.

The question is, “how?” and what standards and expectations do we want to agree upon and encourage as we redefine the “new 21st Century” dad?



No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.

- CALVIN COOLIDGE

In order to redefine the role of man/dad, we have to look at some of the modern family dynamics. Let's take a look at father facts for today's families.

NEW FATHER FACTS:

Fewer dads are their family's sole breadwinner



60%



15%

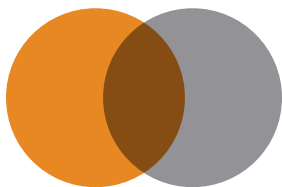
Among married couples with children under age 18, dual-income households are now the dominant arrangement (60%).

In 1960, only one-in-four of these households had two incomes; 70% had a father who worked and a mother who was at home with the kids.

● Present

● 1960

Dads' and moms' roles are converging.



As the share of dual-income households has risen, the roles of mothers and fathers have begun to overlap.

Work-family balance is a challenge for many working fathers.



Pew Research surveys have found that, just like mothers, today's fathers find it challenging to balance work and family life.

NEW FATHER FACTS:

Today's dads say they spend at least as much time with their kids as their own fathers spent with them.



• 46%

• 52%

In a 2012 Pew Research survey, 46% of fathers and 52% of mothers said they personally spend more time with their children than their own fathers and mothers spent with them.

More fathers are staying at home to care for kids.



2 Million Dads

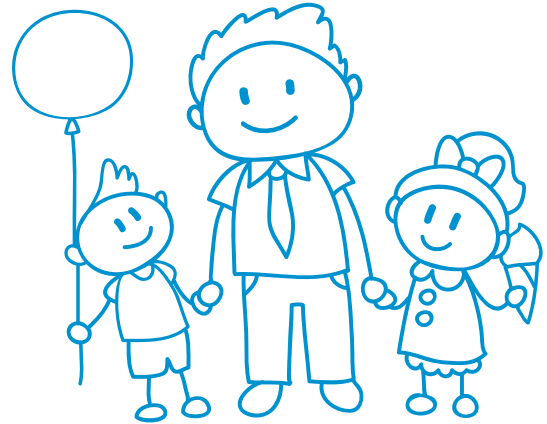
Today, 7% of U.S. fathers with children in their household do not work outside the home—that's roughly 2 million dads.

While a shift may be necessary to reshape the definition of a man/father to coincide with today's new family dynamic, a portion of the definition must never change! Men/fathers who took care of their families, served their communities and sacrificed themselves were considered honorable. Despite the new roles in our evolving families, we still need honorable men.

UPHOLDING HONOR AMONGST MEN

Honor: [on-er] or (especially British) honour: honesty, fairness, or integrity in one's beliefs and actions:

One of the most respected kind of man in world history is the one who has a healthy and loving makeup of honor.



Plato, who is said to be one of the greatest world philosophers, had this to say about honor, "There are three classes of men; lovers of wisdom, lovers of honor, and lovers of gain."

One of the most compelling examples of a man of honor is Joseph (male guardian of Jesus Christ). If you are a Christian, you will probably resonate with the importance of him serving as a chosen male guardian for the Savior. Or maybe you can relate to the type of man who would commit to taking care of a child that is not his, while engaged to his wife to be. The bible doesn't say a lot about Joseph, but from what I can surmise, Joseph was raised to be honorable. He could have easily have said no and would have been justified in his response. His wife to be would not have been considered respectable, he would have been ridiculed. But in order for him to be chosen for this role, he needed the most valuable asset a man can possess; honor. Because of that honor, he was able to commit to Mary and the responsibility of raising Jesus as his own son.



Generally, men are expected to respond to life's responsibility with a certain level of selfishness, ego and arrogance.

The problem with that is while the behavior may be expected; it is seldom seen as acceptable. Very rarely do these expectations live up to the standards of what we believe is an honorable man or the true measure of a man.

It is important to explore the makeup of an honorable man. What qualities and traits does an honorable man possess?

While they may be many ways to describe an honorable man, we have chosen 10 qualities that we feel best embodies an honorable man and have created a pledge for men to uphold the principals of honorableness.



You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.

- ARISTOTLE

THE HONORABLE MAN PLEDGE:

The pledge is designed to provide the principles of being an “honorable man”; in which, these men make great fathers, husbands, mentors and leaders. This pledge is simple and prescribes 10 principles for an honorable man to live by. Each one builds the character of a man. They assist in shaping and inspiring men/fathers to be principle minded.

SELF-CARE

Whereas the HONORABLE man understands the importance of his own health and well-being. He also understands that to impact the lives of those he cares for and serves he has to project a healthy respect for his own growth and development.

HONESTY

Whereas the HONORABLE man will seek to be truthful and honest in all of his dealings, engaging in the utmost effort ensuring that “doing right” is always the only option.

NOBILITY

Whereas the HONORABLE man is proud about how he operates in the world. He conducts himself with goodness and decency.

DISTINCTION

Whereas the HONORABLE man is notable by more than what he says, but what he does and how others see him. Whereas he stands out among other men with distinction, and he is distinguishable in his appearance.

DUTY & RESPONSIBILITY

Whereas the HONORABLE man understands his duty to the responsibility of those things of his own creation. He is, and remains, committed, and finds honor in keeping his word and seeing things through to completion.

 **WORTHY**

Whereas the HONORABLE man is worthy of praise because of his deeds and, as a result, is favored and deserving of respect.

 **EXCELLENCE**

Whereas the HONORABLE man is concerned with putting forth his best effort. He strives to always make excellence his goal and achieving the satisfaction of others in meeting their needs his objective.

 **CREDIBILITY**

Whereas the HONORABLE man seeks and integrates credible assessment from others who are truthful in their evaluation. His stature is not only defined by his view of himself, but also informed by the honest appraisal of others, particularly his peers and mentors.

 **GIVING**

Whereas the HONORABLE man is a humble servant for those in need. He understands that giving of himself is a blessing of equal receipt. Whereas his giving is done with joy and without hesitation or expectation of return.

 **MENTOR**

Whereas the HONORABLE man understands that eyes are always upon him. Whereas he freely gives of his knowledge, wisdom, and experiences for growth and the well-being of others.

I PROMISE TO UPHOLD THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE HONORABLE MAN. I TAKE THIS PLEDGE OF HONOR UNDERSTANDING THAT PERFECTION IS A GOAL, NOT A REALITY. I WILL PRACTICE THE CHARGE OF THE HONORABLE MAN AND WORK TOWARD BEING AN EXAMPLE OF PURPOSEFUL MASCULINITY FOR MY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

THE HONORABLE MAN CAMPAIGN (Formerly Ties Never Broken)



In 2010 I was watching my then fiancé dress my son for church and his outfit had a bowtie. I thought to myself, first, how handsome he looked, but second; what a noticeable and visible way to set an expectation for him. It was at that moment that the Blue Bow Tie Concept was born.

- KENNETH BRASWELL

When I brought to concept to my Fathers Incorporated partners, it was immediately accepted and we collectively realized that there was no better icon to represent the promotion of responsible fatherhood, mentoring, black male achievement and family than with a marketing symbol of a Bow tie. In our conversations we discussed how the bow-tie sets a standard and expectation; not only for the person who wears it, but the people who see it. It commands respect, not just by the nature of who is wearing it, but how they carry themselves while doing so.



The color blue is a natural for boys and men. It is often associated with depth and stability. It symbolizes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith, truth, and heaven. Blue is also a masculine color; according to studies, it is highly accepted among males. Since 2010 Fathers Incorporated has distributed more than 5000 bow tie pins and man tie pinning ceremonies.

This year we have renamed the campaign from “Ties Never Broken” to “The Honorable Man” campaign. The name change allows us to build on the concept of celebrating and building the capacity of respectable, critically needed and Honorable men.



“IF A MAN HAS NOT DISCOVERED SOMETHING THAT HE WILL DIE FOR, HE ISN’T FIT TO LIVE.”

- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A FEW HONORABLE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF?



1. Have you ever engaged in a difficult or challenging act in your life because it was the right thing to do? How did it make you feel?
2. Is there a principle in life to which you are so convicted, you would die for?
3. Who is the most honorable man you know? What is it about him that inspires you?

FOUR HONORABLE ACTIVITIES



1. Work on one honorable character trait a week or month. Begin to talk about it with others and keep a journal to document your progress and activities.
2. Make the Honorable Man commitment by signing the pledge and talking about it with your family, wife, children or friends.
3. Host an Honorable Man “pinning” ceremony. It’s a great way to both honor men/fathers in your circle as well as encourages them to strive to be honorable men. Reach out to Fathers Incorporated on details regarding planning an Honorable Man event.
4. Sign the Honorable Man pledge and become a part of the HM community of men. Receive updates on the campaign, inspirational newsletters and special news.



“IF YOU BE FAITHFUL, YOU WILL HAVE THAT HONOR THAT COMES FROM GOD: HIS SPIRIT WILL SAY IN YOUR HEARTS, WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS. ”

- ADAM CLARKE

HONORABLE RESOURCES



1. The Men's Code of Honor: 66 Principles That Make a Man - by Dan Stradford
2. The Power Principle: Influence with Honor - by Blaine Lee
3. Men of Color Men of Honor - by Zanti Meko-Qwanzi
4. The Richest Man in Babylon - by George S. Clason
5. The Resolution for Men - by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick

CLOSING WORDS

We know there is still much work to be done building the capacity of fathers—particularly fathers facing challenges related to employment, incarceration, housing, mental health issues, and child support debt management.

We are encouraged by new research that shows that particularly Black fathers continue to demonstrate their desire to be actively and positively involved in the lives of their children, regardless of their marital or residential status, and in the face of negative media portrayals and myths about their parenting behaviors.

It is our desire to encourage all men/fathers to be the honorable men their families, community and society needs.



True freedom is where an individual's thoughts and actions are in alignment with that which is true, correct, and of honor - no matter the personal price."

- **BRYANT H. MCGILL**

KENNETH BRASWELL - AUTHOR

With more than 25 years of community development experience, Braswell is the Executive Director of Fathers incorporated (FI) www.fathersincorporated.com, a not-for-profit organization that serves as a leader in the promotion of Responsible Fatherhood. Additionally, Braswell serves as the Director of President Obama's National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFHC) www.fatherhood.gov.

In the past 10 years Braswell has managed more than \$50 million in Fatherhood programs and initiatives, Born and raised in Brooklyn and currently in Atlanta, Mr. Braswell is the father of four beautiful children; uncle, grandfather; and husband to beautiful wife, Tracy.



FATHERS INCORPORATED

Fathers Incorporated is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit (S) corporation and is dedicated to strengthening the community and family infrastructure by encouraging and enabling the positive involvement of fathers in the lives of their children.





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