



8 Father's Mandates

1. Family identity is mandate number one,
Build a trusting relationship and still have fun;
Trust, acceptance, and a growing loyalty,
A devoted, Christ-centred family identity.
2. Now I know you love your wife,
And she's in love with you,
But demonstrate this love
That's mandate number two.

For little eyes see Mum and Dad
when they argue, yell, and fight,
And little hearts and little minds
then worry through the night,
But when you kiss and make up
and whisper "I love you",
And say your love's forever –
Do your kids know that it's true?

For in this world of madness
and divorces thick and fast,
They need to know that they're secure
and that your love will last.
3. Your child's private world,
says mandate number three,
Is the inner private world
where Dads most want to be.
But only with an invitation
can one enter in with care,
Seeing the "open window"
and your child's trust will get you there.
4. Give your child the freedom
to try and then to fail,
Remember mandate number six,
Don't let your face go pale,
For when you've tried your best and failed,
The wound that takes first place
is not the jeers from your own team,
But the disappointment on Dad's face.

So love your child and support them,
Give them confidence and then,
The next time they get knocked down
they can get up and try again.
5. Mandate five: Encourage your child –
let it flow like a river of joy out of the
relationship and let it grow,
It's a smile, an expression and it
builds so much on trust,
Just a note to your child to say
"I love you very much.
6. Now mandate number six is hard;
It's act after you think!
So when our daughter wanders in
and puts a lizard on the sink,
I'll guard my tongue and my tone
and see the joy upon her face,
And stop myself from growling
"Get that thing out of this place."

For with her little friend,
Oh what fun she had,
And of all the people in the world
she wants to share it with her Dad!
7. Routinely embrace your child
is mandate number seven,
A gentle hand, a tender hug,
a pat on the back or a kiss even,
To hold and be held communicates
vulnerability and intimacy,
This is reserved for trusting members
of your family.

There's something special about Dad's arms,
Very secure where Mum comforts and calms,
Your child's never too old for a hug and a kiss,
For a son or a daughter, it never goes a miss.
8. Now all the mandates listed here
are as useless as the man,
Who, while everything was going well,
Built his house upon the sand.

For a family to survive
life's storms and toils and strife,
The foundation it must be secure,
We must build on Jesus Christ.

Dads, that's our final mandate,
And it's some responsibility,
As through our leadership, prayer and love,
We build a family.