

## Be a Man and Teach your Child<sup>1</sup>

*Real Men Don't Eat Quiche* was the title of a best-selling book by Bruce Feirstein published in 1982. Supposedly, a real man would eat egg and bacon pie if his wife made it, she served it to him, and she cleaned up afterwards. What a real man would not do is make it himself, call it by its French name quiche, serve it to his female life partner, or wash up afterwards because, that is women's work.

Only a feminised “quiche eater,” the sensitive New Age guy, the vulnerable empathiser with the Women's Movement, or the confessor of feminist critique of traditional roles would do such things.

Real men are tough. Real men do what has got to be done. Real men improvise, adapt, and overcome. Real men know the measure of manliness is the size of the obstacle it takes to stop them. In man's work, we punch through, take knocks and cuts, scrapes and bruises. We muscle things into shape. We eat red meat barely cooked bloody rare. Right?

It takes only a Small Catechism to stop 90 percent of us. Twenty minutes a day, four days a week is heavy overtime for us. A spoon fed lesson that we need to merely read aloud is too mentally demanding. A heart for our children's eternal destiny is just sappy sentimentalism. Religion is for women and children, and it happens at the church, not at home or at work.

Real men don't eat quiche, and real men don't catechise their children, because that is women's work. No, check that. That is the pastor's job.

Too judgmental? Too sarcastic?

Tough guy, are you tough enough to look in the mirror? Are you rugged enough to face facts? Are you manly enough to handle the truth?

A recent Facebook survey on a Lutheran site listed what a bunch of Lutherans reported as the reasons fathers do not teach the Small Catechism to their children. The reasons reported are lame. Apparently it is not teaching the Catechism that would make us sissies: it's our weakling excuses that do. All the obstacles that stop us.

And that is only the beginning. To be so neglectful of your children is hateful. They are in need. They need the Catechism. But what they especially need is you. They need you reading it to them. There is no substitute for you. There are Plan B and Plan C. But those are not substitutes for Plan A. They are only B and C. You are Plan A. Failing in this is like sending your kids to school with no shoes or lunch. Why do you do it? What were you thinking?

Your child is a little lamb in Christ's flock. Christ is the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, ([Hebrews 11:20](#)). He has assigned you, in your office as father, to be

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Real Men Catechize their Children*, Pastor TR Halvorson

an under-shepherd of your little lamb. All the while, the Devil is a roaring lion roaming around, seeking whom he can devour, (1 Peter 5:18). Your little lamb is threatened continually by the lion, the wolf, and the bear; by the sin of fallen human nature; by the cunning of the enemy of our souls, the Devil; and by the corruption of the world. When these attack your little lamb, you, as father, are to be a manly shepherd, like David: <sup>33</sup> *And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."* <sup>34</sup> *But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,* <sup>35</sup> *"I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.* <sup>36</sup> *"Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."* <sup>37</sup> *Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."* *And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"* (1 Samuel 17).

You strike the lion with the Catechism. You grab the bear's beard with the Catechism. You deliver your little lamb from their mouths with the Catechism. This is the sling shot of your spiritual warfare to defend your little lamb. The Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine in the Catechism are smooth stones from a brook to land in Goliath's head.

You've got time for other things and no time for your child's soul. Is that so manly? Pick up your Catechism and be concerned with your child's spiritual life.

The Lord commands you, <sup>5</sup> *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.* <sup>6</sup> *"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.* <sup>7</sup> *"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up,"* (Deuteronomy 6).

For love of the Lord, and for love of your child, be a man about it and teach your child.