

WHAT DO YOU BUY/GIVE A DAD THAT HAS **EVERYTHING?**



FOR XMAS 2020

OBJECTIVE:

To identify what a “Dad” wants from their child

1) INTRODUCTION:

Let us paint the following picture:

Johnny is 6 years old, does not have any money, does not earn any income or receive any pocket money, loves his dad and wants to buy his father a gift for Xmas and on top of that, his dad is the owner of the biggest retail store in the world which sells everything “under the sun”, so what is Johnny to do?

The short answer is that Johnny’s options are very limited and perhaps a material/physical gift is not the way to go.

Let us swap the situation around:

If you a parent with everything physical thing a child could offer, what gift would you want from your child? Probably one or more of the following things:

- Their love
- Their obedience to you
- Their appropriate attention
- Their presence
- Their open communication to you
- Them doing what is expected of them
- They achieving at what they do
- They comply with your country’s laws
- They stay out of trouble?
- They maintain a balance (not too much of one thing like playing on the tablet and not too little of another thing like learning)

From the father’s point of view, were there any money or physical objects involved in the above list?

The short answer is “NO”, a father does not need or want material gifts from their children (unless their child won the Lottery...!).

The above list contains non-material items only!

Let us call the above list the “soft issues”

So what does Johnny’s mother usually do?

She goes out and buys a gift on behalf of Johnny or gives Johnny money to go buy his father a gift, so it is less personal.

2) WHAT IF JOHNNY DID NOT GET ASSISTANCE FROM HIS MOM OR EVEN DAD?

What options will Johnny have if his mom or dad did not give him financial assistance, but materials and tools to apply his talents and create a gift? Would that help? **Definitely!**

In short, giving Johnny materials and tools would make Johnny feel empowered with the ability to give his Dad something of a more personal value.

3) WHAT ABOUT SUSAN?

Before you ask “*who is Susan and what does she have to do with this story*”, well, Susan is 5 years old and also has no money to buy a gift! Like most small children, she is thus in the same boat! She thus has two overall options:

1. Ask her Mother’s financial assistance; or
2. Use her talents to make a gift with stuff at her disposal!

I can bet you that any parent will enjoy a personal gift from 2 above much more, because a purchased gift will have to come from their budget in any case and is much less personal!

4) LET US SUMMARISE

- Small children have no financial gift to offer;
- They need the parent’s intervention to help; or
- They can use their talents to make their parents a gift from whatever material available around the house; and
- Parents actually do not want a financial material gift (Hard issue) from their child who cannot afford it, if they have to finance it themselves in any case. They would prefer a “Soft issue” as listed previously which is of much more value to appreciate.

5) WHAT ABOUT US ADULTS?

Yes, we are in the exact same situation! We also have a “Dad” that has EVERYTHING (Everything belongs to Him in any case). He does not want a physical gift (unless it goes to someone less fortunate), He want those “Soft issues”.

In our case, the “other parent” (Jesus) already stepped in on our behalf and died for our sins as a gift to God and as a gift to us!

We have however been given talents (Gifts) to utilise as “Soft Issue” gifts to God:

*Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **Romans 12:6-8***

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen **1 Peter 4:10-11***

*A man’s gift makes room for him and brings him before the great. **Proverbs 18:16***

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **1 Corinthians 12:4-6***

*But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift **Ephesians 4:7***

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **James 1:17***

6) CONCLUSION

Let us look at that list of “Soft issues” again and unpack them:

NO	SOFT ISSUE	COMMENT
1	Their love	That is what God wants (our love) and it is His first commandment
2	Their obedience	This is why God has the 10 commandments and although Jesus died for our sins, God still want our Obedience and that is why the 10

NO	SOFT ISSUE	COMMENT
		Commandments is still being referred to in the New Testament
3	Their appropriate attention	God wants our attention! He wants us to be in constant communication with Him via prayer and reading his Word (Bible)
4	Their presence	We should not forget about God, especially in good times and maintain communication
5	Their open communication to you	Just like a parent wants their child to be open and honest, so does God not want us to try and hide things which he in any case can see! He also wants our open and honest communication
6	Them doing what is expected of them	God also has expectations from us and these are clearly communicated in the Bible, so this is another "soft issue" gift God would want from us!
7	They achieving at what they do	God gave each of us Talents and he expects us to use those talents (go read Matthew 25:14-30 as an example)
8	They comply with your country's laws	Every country has 1000s of laws and regulations, but God's "country" basically has the 10 Commandments, so not many to abide by, yet we find it difficult...
9	They stay out of trouble?	This is a given! God wants us to stay away from Sin which messes up so many lives
	They maintain a balance (not too much of one thing like playing on the tablet and not too little of another thing like learning)	Yes, we need to maintain a balance and avoid obsessions and there are so many guidance on this in the Bible (Matthew 6:24, Romans 8:6-16 and even verses about the opposite like to not be lazy).

This is a short article and the purpose was to show you the similarity between you and your child and God and us as His children!

We can only offer Soft Issues to God which is appreciated more and to help others onto the right path, we should also use our GIFTS God has given to each one of us. They differ (1 Corinthians 12:30 + Romans 12:6), so to use what has been given to you (1 Corinthians 12:10) and if you do not know what they are:

- Identify what you good at;
- Identify where your passions lie;
- There are "discover your talent" tests/questionnaires available on the Internet or at your church; or
- Consult a professional and God.

Bottom line: Your passions and what you good at will guide you...