

COMMON GROUND

You and I have something in common. It's something that all humans on this planet share; everyone who has ever existed and ever will exist. What we have in common is that we have/had parents; a man and a woman who came together and each contributed DNA that we could exist. What we also have in common is that we were each born into this world. We were allowed to exist. Ultimately God created you and me, but our parents chose to follow through and let us see the light of day. We have that in common, but our differences begin to diverge from there; our forms, our genetic make-up, skin color, sex, race, beliefs, etc. Our differences set us apart, and way too often keep us apart. We see someone and make decisions about that someone. We decide if that person is someone we are going to associate with and possibly be in some sort of relationship. Sometimes our differences draw us together, but at other times our differences are what cause walls to go up between people. It's sad, but true. The fact remains, we have life in common.

I say all of this as I reflect on another Father's Day. It will be my fifth one as a father, but as a son looking up to a father, well, I have had many more than five. I think of all that my father was to me and I am thankful. I never said, "thank you", for giving me life, but rather "thank you" for the many tangibles and intangibles. Now I look at fatherhood differently as a father who adopted two beautiful children, and I give thanks that those birth parents chose to allow Mayah and Malachi to be born; to exist in this world. They could have made another decision, but chose to allow these beautiful children to see the light of day. They recognized the beauty of their lives and chose my wife and I to raise them. For that, I am extremely thankful.

So now I enter another Father's Day thinking about what we all have in common. Thinking about the life my father gave me and the life my children's birth parents gave them. Above all, I am thinking about and thanking my heavenly Father for the Life He has given me through faith in Jesus Christ. My heavenly Father made a choice and thus I have hope. May you, too, see life as precious and valuable and beautiful and wonderful, as your heavenly Father sees it. May you also look to your father and say thank you and look to your heavenly Father and say thank you. We have life in common, the only question is, what kind of life is it? Your heavenly Father chose life for you. May you do the same. Happy Father's Day and praise be to God. Amen.

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