

What Black Fathers Tell Their Sons

by VC Edwards

For black teens, parents, mentors, coaches, teachers, pastors and activists.

Son, never give society incriminating evidence to use against you—live so that every element of your identity will be above reproach—your behavior, your attire, your body, your agenda, your schedule, your lifestyle, your friends, your faith, your beliefs and your purpose.

1. Obey God in all you do and He will guide your steps.
2. Do not wear your pants below your waist. “Respect” starts by respecting yourself.
3. Do not wear hoodies or any attire that makes it easy for someone to profile you as a troublemaker. Hoodies are for children, not for teens, who are walking into manhood. A polo shirt and a pair of slacks will get you further in life than a hoodie and baggy jeans. So, do not support clothing designers who make money by putting your life in danger.
4. Do not wear your hair long, if it obstructs your vision or your face.
5. Do not play loud music, in your car or outdoors.
6. Do not engage in loud and argumentative discussions. Walk away like a man.
7. Do not hang out in a group or a gang. You cannot control the activities of others, but you could become legally entangled in someone else’s reckless behavior, simply because of hanging with the wrong people.
8. Do not place your hands in your pockets when you are in a store.
9. Do not use foul language. Present your ideas intelligently and you will gain respect from all people.
10. Respect the life of all females and protect all females.
11. Do not use illegal substances. Drugs will work against you and compromise your integrity and judgment.
12. **DO NOT GO OUT AFTER DARK**, if not necessary. The majority of tragic incidents occur after dark by people, who have evil and foolish intents, thinking they can get away with malice in the dark that they would be ashamed to commit in daylight. So, do not go to the store after dark. Stores and food brands cannot protect you or save your life. You must protect yourself, by not going to the store sporadically, just to pass away time, knowing that a simple trip to the store, after dark, can endanger your life. Understand that night hours benefit greedy

businessmen (who are making money), and endanger the public, who patronize them at night. Do not subject your life to dangers of nightlife by playing into the hands of greedy businessmen, who own bodegas, 24-hour stores and night clubs.

13. Do not let your life center around senseless activities of celebrities, who are spokespersons for industries and brands that portray blacks as violent, uncivilized and sexualized in film, music and fashion. The marketing giants that celebrities sign under are directly aimed at young people, and encourage reckless lifestyles that put young people's lives in danger.
14. Create something to help your community or get involved in a community program to help your neighborhood.
15. Be a responsible and law-abiding citizen. "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!"
16. If stopped by the police, do not make any sudden moves. Have your hands where the police can see them (on your steering wheel, if you are driving). Do not argue or give smart answers to the police officer. Be courteous and only answer what you are asked. Police officers work in stressful situations every day, and you don't want to, in any way, add to their stress.
17. Don't dress or behave in a way that may make in society feel uncomfortable. Dress and behave orderly. Don't wear clothing that makes you look uncivilized. Never allow your clothing, your hair style or your behavior to endanger or cost you your life. Sensible attire and behavior will help you stay safe.
18. Look to Jesus Christ to be your help and protection against others who do not love their neighbors.
19. To learn how to hear the Voice of God for personal protection and prosperity, read "How to Hear God to Prosper" at TheTalk2Prosper.com.

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