

Cal Ripken's Example

On September 6, 1995, Cal Ripken Jr. broke the baseball record that many believed would never be broken: Lou Gehrig's iron-man feat of playing in 2,131 consecutive games. Ripken gives much of the credit for his accomplishments to the example and teaching of his father, Cal Ripken Sr., who played minor league baseball and coached and managed for the Baltimore Orioles.

During the 1996 season, Ripken Sr. was inducted into the Orioles Hall of Fame. After he gave his acceptance speech, the son came to the microphone. It was an emotional moment recalled in his book, *The Only Way I Know*:

“It was difficult. I wasn't certain I could say what I wanted about my father and what he means to me. So I told a little story about my two children, Rachel, six at the time, and Ryan, then three. They'd been bickering for weeks, and I explained how one day I heard Rachel taunt Ryan, ‘You're just trying to be like Daddy.’”

“After a few moments of indecision, I asked Rachel, ‘What's wrong with trying to be like Dad?’”

“When I finished telling the story, I looked at my father and added, “That’s what I've always tried to do.””

What a tribute of a son to a father. And what a responsibility on the father to set an example that inspires his children to want to be like him. It's something to consider on this Father's Day -- from both perspectives.

What could be more right than to try to be like our heavenly Father? It brings true and lasting greatness. One way to honor Him is by going to His house this weekend.

--Beecher Hunter