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## An open letter to men whose wives want to adopt

**OK, so your wife wants to adopt...** and you are going along with it, but not exactly all fired up about it. Well, you should be, because this child will be your son or daughter – and you will be a dad. Seriously, you will be... and you will love it. Not all the time, but even dads to home-grown kids roll their eyes, curse under their breath and think back to the no-kids days. But the reason that you will be cursing is because you care so much and you can't figure out why they don't always see that. *That's* what it is like to be a dad.

There are other things too... like watching that first wobbly bike ride across the parking lot. Taking your son on the "midnight run" to the bathroom, and helping him pee in the toilet because he is wobbly from sleepiness. Or maybe it's popping a head back on a Barbie doll – too vigorous a brushing and your daughter brings it over with teary eyes.

The other day, I was getting clothes ready for my daughter to put on, and she said, "Catch me, daddy" and fell backwards off the bed, knowing that I would catch her – and damned if I didn't. She never saw the fear, anger and satisfaction in my eyes. She just laughed and kissed me and put on her shirt; I got a few more gray hairs.

And now I am encouraging other husbands to seriously contemplate adoption, so that they can experience these moments, too.

**So here is what you should do.** Actively participant in the adoption. Don't sit back and let your wife do it all because "she wants it more." Trust me, you'll look back some day when you are having a blast tossing the ball, or reading a story, or watching a recital, and you say to yourself, "Why did I hesitate to do this? What the *hell* was I thinking?"

The adoption process is a pain in the neck – they ask lots of personal questions and the essays stink and the social worker is so nosey. On top of that, they hit you for money. Grrr! But you don't want to have to answer the question, "So daddy, what did you all have to do to adopt me?" with, "Uh, I don't know, your mom did most of it. I just signed a few papers."

Also, don't feel bad if you want a boy and she wants a girl. Women usually want a girl, because its what they know. Maybe you can wrangle a boy for the next one (that's what I said – the next one, you'll see). Or maybe you can guilt her into getting a boy first, since you need more incentive.

Of course, if you get a girl, you'll love it. Just wait until she makes you feel like a hero for fixing the VCR or just holding her after she falls. For me, parenting a girl has been a humbling, eye-opening, enriching experience.

**So think about it.** Look deep in your heart. Remember, I have not run across a dad yet that has said, "*You know, Lyman, I really don't love my son/daughter that much because he/she is adopted.*"

Good luck, have fun, think about it, and then get going.

Best wishes,



Lyman Phillips  
Dad to two

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Original can be found at: <http://www.lymanphillips.us/adopt/>