

A genius is a man with a high IQ. A successful man is measured by his wealth and status within his career and community.

Let me go out on a limb here and say that a true genius is a man who understands that the successful man should never be measured by his wealth and status, but more by the impact he has had within the relationships in his life.

A case in point would have to be my dad.

I doubt if anyone would look at my dad and accuse him of being a genius. I certainly don't think there are many people out there who would call my dad a successful man.

My dad struggled most of his adult life. If you were to ask me what my dad did for a living, the best I could come up with is that he paid rent. He was a simple man. Not complicated at all. He was never an employee of the month. I don't recall him ever getting any merit promotions, awards or recognition for the work he did. He was a typical American blue-collar worker who understood that your job was simply what paid the rent. He never took a job more seriously than that.

He had some demons in his life but I can honestly say that he overcame them all through hard work and a firm commitment to a heart that truly wanted what was best for his family.

I suppose there are many who would look at my dad's life and say that he was a man who was not very successful in life.

But I think those people fail to understand what life is all about.

If you want to measure my dad's life, I suggest you take a close look at his sons.

There were four of us. Four boys who grew up with different ambitions, personalities, likes and dislikes. Four boys who became men of different careers and even live in different parts of the country. Four men of varying closeness towards one another, yet with a genuine respect for each other as family.

If you asked someone who knows one of the Smith boys to describe him, I know what they would say. Be it Paul, Mike, Tim or myself, the first thing mentioned would always be that we are great dads. Four very diverse men with one common thread between them. We are all four wonderful fathers in a world so desperate for role models in fatherhood.

Even now as most of the children have grown into adulthood, the Smith brothers continue to enjoy warm, close relationships with their children. Fourteen children between us and not one that would say

that the relationship with their dad was distant or cold. In today's world of drive through divorces, multiple marriages and every-other-weekend dads, the Smith family speaks volumes for what fatherhood should be about.

Michael Jordan is a first ballot Hall of Fame basketball legend, for sure. And if he had four sons who also grew up to be Hall of Fame basketball players as well, that would truly be remarkable.

If fatherhood had a hall of fame, my dad would truly be remarkable.

If you really want to measure a man's life, don't measure his IQ or stack up all the material toys he's been lucky enough to gather. A truly great man must be measured by what he has been able to bring to the table that will have long lasting positive impact on the world.

My dad is a legend. I will never think of him as anything less. You can find men with higher IQs. You can find men with a lot more money. But for a man who has contributed more to the table of life, there are few before my dad. If you want to measure what a Dad should be, then my dad is the ruler we should all use.

Just A Thought