# Fatherpreneur

As you grow up, you develop an idea of what the world is like and what life should be like when you get older. A lot of external circumstances influence our idea: our families, where you're born, and the beliefs that are passed on to you.

For a lot of us though, especially in the western world, one thing you learn is almost universal.

Work as hard as you can through grade school for a shot at getting into a good college. Once you get into college and graduate, now you need your master's degree to get a decent entry-level job. Now that you've finally earned your masters degree and accumulated mass amounts of debt, you can finally get a great job at a great company...and start at the bottom.

Now you work as hard as you can for 40 hours a week (more like 60-80 hours for a lot of people) for about 40-50 years, and, hopefully, you make your way to the top of our profession. It's highly unlikely that you'll reach the top, but hopefully, you get close. Our relationships, hobbies, and passions are all squeezed into the little bit of time you have between working, commuting and sleeping. Once our 40 or so years are up, you retire, and now you finally get a chance to relax and enjoy life.

That's the way of life that was taught to me.

Study hard, go to college and get a job working hard for someone else. Then, dedicate a huge chunk of your life to that job so you can earn a livable wage. Give them your time, and they pay you what they think you deserve.

My family worked on tobacco farms in South Carolina. Backbreaking work in the unforgivable heat from sun up to sun down. So for people in my family to be able to work office jobs with air conditioning and health benefits is considered an enormous success.

That was a couple generations ago. Is that still the American dream? Should it be? Should you accumulate massive amounts of debt in school to get a good job working for someone else? Should you dream of working in a system where you trade your time for money? Time, the only thing you can't create more of, being traded for a wage determined by someone else.

That's not my dream.

I want to live my life while I'm young. I want a life that doesn't need scheduled vacations. I don't want to wake up exhausted to an alarm clock every morning only to commute to a job that I don't enjoy, to work on something that's not important to me.

I want to wake up when I want, work when and where I want, and spend my time with the people I love. No awkward water cooler conversations with people I'm only pretending to like.

It's an outdated system. It doesn't work like it used to, and five, ten, twenty years from now it's not going to work. No one can live off of minimum wage. Minimum wage isn't enough to feed yourself much less your family.

I'm not saying everyone is entitled to $15/hr, but minimum wage doesn't meet our minimum requirements. Before you know it, those minimum wage jobs will be lost to automation anyway. Our robot counterparts could replace factory jobs, taxi drivers, and even doctors.

So what do you do? If the system isn't working what are our other options? Do you write letters to your congressman? Do you politely ask your boss for a raise? Do you go back to school one more time to learn new skills? You *could* do all of those things, but I'm not sure how useful it would be.

Can you trust our congressman to do what's right for his people? Will your boss be open to giving you a raise just because you asked nicely? He still has to look out for his bottom line. If a raise does happen, it's usually pennies on the dollar anyway. And going back to school is expensive and time-consuming, and a lot of employers think degrees are irrelevant now.

Even if you're able to get the perfect situation worked out at your job, you're still trading your time for their money. You work when and where they tell you to until you can finally retire. If you're ever able to retire, that is. I, for one, want more freedom than that.

That leaves us with only one option. You have to change your way of thinking. Change the way you've done things, and change the way you think about them. Become a creator and stop over consuming. Break free of the "employee mindset" and develop an "entrepreneurial mindset." Start our own business and create your job.

*But that's too hard! The majority of new small businesses fail! I don't have enough money!*

All of those statements are legitimate concerns, but none of them should stop you from living the life you deserve. I've tried to start several businesses and failed. A dessert shop, pet supply store, a hospitality services company, and an Italian ice shop to name a few.

Brick and mortar businesses are hard to start, and it's even harder to make them succeed. But, there are simpler ways to do it now, and you don't have to be tied down to just one location anymore.

We live in an age of technology. With the internet, you're just a mouse click away from people thousands and thousands of miles away. The world is a much smaller place than it used to be.

You can be in America with customers living in Mexico, the UK, Australia, and Thailand without batting an eye. You can earn dollars and spend pesos.

Everyone shops online now. You can put a buy it now button on any website, and you can sell anything. People have a strong desire to learn and to improve their lives, so if you have a sellable skill, by all means, sell it.

What are your passions?

What gets you out of bed in the morning? Are you a fitness junkie? Sell your unique workout program and blog about your daily routines.

Do you spend every weekend out on a boat fishing? Teach people your "secret sauce" to always catching the big fish.

Just make sure to differentiate yourself from the thousands of other fishermen, and that your "secret sauce" is something people want.

Listen to the market and respond to it. It's simple but it's not easy. You're not going to be able to spend 5 minutes setting up a blog on WordPress, post a few articles and then BOOM! Here comes the money. Not even close. It takes a lot of work, it takes a long time, and it takes a lot of effort.

But it's possible. People are doing it, and they're people just like you and me.

Living this lifestyle became even more important to me when I became a father. The first time I looked my little boy in the eyes I knew there would never be anything more important to me than my time spent with him. I immediately knew that being tied down to a typical 9-5 would keep me from experiencing everything I want with him.

I want to be at every basketball game, every school play, and if he needs me for any reason, I want to be able to drop whatever I'm doing and be there for him.

Having to ask my boss if I'm allowed to leave work and be with my son isn't an option anymore. Creating a sustainable online business is the only option for me.

So here I am, sitting in front of my laptop writing a blog post.

I'm not rich. I don't have a fancy car or a house on an exotic beach or a private jet on standby. But I've changed my way of thinking. I'm creating things now. I'm doing more than sharing videos on Facebook that others have made. I'm the one creating things for people to share. I'm no longer waiting 40 years to finally gain control of my life. I'm working right now to gain control of my life sooner rather than later.

I'm starting to do things that will make ME money instead of just fattening my bosses pockets. It's not easy. There's not a magic pill that's going to make you rich overnight. It's hard work. But it's possible, and I'm making it happen.

So can you.