

# FATHERHOOD

## Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some important principles of being a father
2. Prov. 23:24 "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise [child] shall have joy of him."
  - a. Being a father is a wonderful and awesome responsibility
  - b. To be the father of a child that is righteous and wise brings great rejoicing and joy
3. Eph. 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
  - a. Fathers have a duty to their children to bring them up in the correct way
  - b. This is God's way - the way of nurturing and teaching them the truth of God's word
4. The influence of a father reaches through time into eternity
  - a. Being a good father is not easy.
  - b. It requires a number of skills and virtues
  - c. The best advice a father can get is from the Bible.
5. Here are some biblical principles for fathers

## Discussion

### I. A GOOD FATHER LEADS HIS CHILDREN

- A. Abraham is an example of a man who led his children
  1. Gen. 18:19 "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."
  2. God could trust Abraham to be a good father - before he became a father

3. God knew that early training was very important and God knew that this man Abraham would provide this as well as being a good example.
  4. Abraham would be a father who would instruct his children in the way of the Lord to live a just and righteous life
- B. Fathers today must lead their children
1. Become a Christian - live a dedicated Christian life - Let them see Christ living in you
  2. Tell them to follow your example - 1 Cor. 11:1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ."
  3. Father must help train and teach their children from an early age - telling them about God and His way - Christ and His Church
  4. Teach them and show them a love for the Bible which will be their guide.
- C. Children if you honor your father you will listen
1. Eph. 6: 1-3
    - a. V. 2 - Honor V. 1 - Obey
    - b. You honor your father by being obedient to him
  2. Proverbs has much to say about children listening to their fathers
    - a. Prov. 6:20-22 "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, [and] tie them about thy neck. 22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and [when] thou awakest, it shall talk with thee."
    - b. Prov. 4:1-2 (NKJV) "Hear, [my] children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law."

## II. A GOOD FATHER SETS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE

A. Ezekiel reminds us of the consequences of a father's actions

1. Ezek. 18:2 "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?"
2. The message of this proverb is that the consequences of the sins of the father are often visited on the children. Ex. 20:5
3. When fathers live a life of sin it brings poverty, disgrace and disease to the children. When a thief is sent to prison his children are left without bread.
4. This is not punishment to the children for the sins of the father, but they do sometimes have suffering and heartaches that are caused by their fathers.

B. But a Good Father brings good things to the life of his children

1. **Eph. 6:4** teaches fathers to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord - this means you are involved in their lives - teaching and helping and loving them
2. This will have a tremendous effect on the children's lives <sup>1</sup>
  - a. As early as 5 months of age, boys who have fathers that take a part in caring for them are less frightened of strangers, more cognitively advanced more curious and have better sensory-motor skills.
  - b. Children, both boys and girls, who have fathers at home score higher on achievement and IQ tests and have higher grade point averages than children who do not.
  - c. Girls whose fathers spend a lot of time reading to them tend to have advanced verbal abilities.

- d. Daughters whose fathers stay involved in their lives from childhood through adolescence tend to be more emotionally mature and cognitively developed than the daughters of fathers who do not.
  - e. Daughters whose fathers were actively involved in their lives supporting and encouraging them to be involved in athletic and competitive endeavors tend to be more successful in their careers.
  - f. Blankenhorn observed that children who grew up in homes without the presence of a father "are far more likely than other children to be expelled or suspended from school, to display emotional and behavioral problems, to have difficulty getting along with their peers, and to get in trouble with the police."
- 3. Fathers are more than an "option." They are essential to the healthy mental and emotional development of their children.
  - 4. It is not just that there is a male presence in the home that is important. Must be a man who recognizes his role and maintains proper relationships. Must be "God's Man."

### **III. A FATHER PROVIDES FOR HIS FAMILY**

- A. 1 Tim. 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."
  - 1. It is worse than an unbeliever to not provide for his own family
  - 2. A good father will certainly be a hard worker to provide the physical needs
- B. Some fathers go to extremes in this area
  - 1. Some want to work to give their children too much

2. They want to be sure their children have everything all the others have - they want them to have the best and the most of any child.
3. This is not a reasonable or good thing to do - too much of these material goods will ruin a child - 1 Tim. 6:6-10 - apply these thoughts to raising children
4. It teaches them that material things are more important than spiritual matters
5. They do not appreciate these things because they want their fathers to give time not money
6. III. Child asked his father how much he made per hour. He saved his money. Told his father that here is \$ I want to buy an hour of time with you !
7. Loves isn't something you buy. Your kids spell it T-I-M-E and it costs more than M-O-N-E-Y.

#### **IV. A GOOD FATHER EDUCATES HIS CHILDREN**

- A. Eph. 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
  1. Two Greek words that are used in this verse are important to understand
    - a. Paidea = nurture - this word means to educate by discipline
    - b. Nouthesia = admonition - this word means educate by instruction
  2. So fathers are to be involved in teaching and in discipline
- B. Teach the children
  1. Most important teaching is about God and His word
  2. Read the Bible to them
  3. Attend services with them - the attendance of your children will be greatly influenced by the father

### C. Discipline your children

1. A good father will not neglect this important part of rearing children
2. The book of Proverbs has much advice on the need for discipline for children
  - a. Prov. 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."
  - b. Prov. 23:13-14 "Withhold not correction from the child: for [if] thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."
3. Eli failed to do this and God brought judgment on his house - 1 Sam. 3:13

### Conclusion

1. A father has a tremendous opportunity to help bring his children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
2. It will not always be easy - but it is the right thing to do and it will bring good results
3. May we give honor to the fathers who give of themselves to their children to prepare them for the task of living to the Glory of God.
4. Poem - Father "Just Like You"

**FATHER "JUST LIKE YOU"**

There are little eyes upon you, and they are watching night and day;  
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say;  
There are little hands all eager to do everything you do,  
And a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol, you're the wisest of the wise,  
In his little mind about you, no suspicions ever rise;  
He believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say and do,  
He will say and do in your way when he's grown up to be like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow who believes you're always right,  
And his ears are always open and he watches day and night;  
You are setting an example every day in all you do,  
For the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

**Endnotes**

1. Annie E. Casey Foundation -- report read before a meeting of European ministers in Helsinki.
2. John Snarey, "How Fathers Care For The Next Generation," Emory University psychologist.
3. David Blankenhorn "Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem", Institute for American Values.

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com