

FATHERS - THE ANCHOR OF THE FAMILY

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some of the characteristics of a father which make him the anchor of the family.
2. Eph. 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
3. Ps. 127:3 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."
4. Anchor = mooring, foundation, mainstay, secure - words to define
5. Fathers have a big responsibility in the home and the rearing of the children.
6. A new baby is a bundle of opportunities. Each one has a soul that must be prepared for eternal life. A child is a gift from God and we will be held accountable for how we raise them.
7. Here are some traits or characteristics of christian fathers.

Discussion

I. TRAITS OF A GODLY FATHER

A. Leadership

1. He is the head over his wife and literally "master of the house" as the word husband suggests
2. He is to be the father of his children - he has the right to set rules and regulations for them. And he must discipline them when it is necessary.
3. To insure stability, peace and order, every institution on earth must have a head.
4. God places man as the head of the home.

B. Provision

1. The father is to provide for the family
2. Includes, food, clothing, shelter, education
3. 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."

C. He should be an example of Christian Character

1. He should be an example in spiritual matters
2. Children are little imitators and will copy what to them is attractive.
3. Someone has said: "What you do makes so much noise I cannot hear what you say."
4. He should be an active Christian, regular in attendance, prayer, Bible study.
5. Fathers cannot lead where they do not go.
6. The greatest thing a father can leave his child is a godly example.
7. Children are real fast at detecting hypocrisy.

D. Instruction in God's word and spiritual training

1. Teach them how to study the bible
2. Teach them how to pray
3. Attend church services with them
4. Be sure they have their Bible and lesson for class
5. Warn them about false doctrines and false religions

II. PROVIDE DISCIPLINE

- A. Shall I spank my Child? Corporeal Punishment ?
1. Many authorities say NO!!!!
 2. Parents say: "I love my child too much to ever spank him."
 3. Experts in child rearing advise us to never spank -- warn that it will warp their personality.
 4. On July 1, 1979 it became illegal for a Swedish parent to spank, slap or otherwise strike a child.
- B. What does God say? He is the creator of the family. He knows more about it than any expert!
1. Prov. 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
 - a. Foolishness = silliness, "foolish ways" BBE "Folly" ESV
 - b. Correction = discipline, instruction, rebuke
 2. Prov.19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
 - a. Chasten = discipline
 - b. ESV "Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death."
 3. Prov. 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." NKJV "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

4. Prov 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."
 - a. NKJV b "disgraces his mother."
 - b. ESV "brings shame to his mother"

5. 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."
 - a. ESV = "Do not withhold discipline from a child"
 - b. V. 14 beat him with the rod = discipline, or punish
 - c. Result = deliver his soul from hell
 - d. Deliver = to snatch away, pluck, preserve, rescue

C. What is DISCIPLINE?

1. "A method of instruction in education whereby we seek to make the doing of right a pleasant task and the doing of wrong an unpleasant task."
2. Two Aspects of Discipline:
 - a. The negative - NO - It makes prohibitions and prescribes and executes punishments
 - b. And the Positive - YES - Positive discipline directs the activities of the child in a constructive and educational way.
3. Anyone who believes the Bible must believe in physical discipline of children.
 - a. Rod - switch, belt, paddle,
 - b. Rod of correction -- Beatest him with the rod
 - c. The rod and reproof

- d. Spanking a child is instruction that God gives to parents.
- 4. The propaganda of the "no spanking" crowd seeks to convince us that all spanking involves child abuse. That is not true!! An Abuse of a thing is not an argument against it's proper use.

D. Remember the purpose of spanking

- 1. The purpose is not to vent parental anger. Do not discipline when you are angry.
Will not be effective and may be too severe.
- 2. The **purpose** is to teach a **better way of behaving**.
- 3. The word discipline means a learner or disciple
- 4. Spanking is used by parents to instruct the child that certain forms of behavior are unacceptable.
- 5. If you are angry, wait until the anger has passed, then call the child and explain the reason for the discipline.

E. What kind of behavior deserves a spanking?

- 1. A child needs a spanking when they have deliberately disobeyed their parents.
They are in rebellion to instruction given earlier.
- 2. When a child is defying the authority of his parents he must be disciplined.
When a child has the attitude: "I know what you want. I won't give it.
Whatcha' going to do about it?" What is at stake is the right of the parent to lead -- the respect for leadership or authority of the parent.

3. When a child resists your leadership and assaults your position in a disrespectful manner by calling you a name or by saying, "shut up" or saying "No, I will not do it!", then spanking is an appropriate tool.
 4. A strong-willed, defiant child must have a spanking in order to gain his attention and get control of him!!!
 - a. Willful defiance was the problem with Adam and Eve
 - b. God said: "You may eat of all the fruit except this one".
 - c. Eve reasoned: "I will have my way. I know what you said, God. I won't accept it."
 - d. Adam and Eve were disciplined because of their defiance.
 5. When parents set up reasonable boundaries for their children and they explain what they expect, and then that child walks out there and deliberately crosses that line, that is willful defiance and the parents must be willing to discipline in such a way that they can stop this action of the child. Spanking is one good way to do this!!
 - a. "Foolishness" -- Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. Prov. 22:15
 - b. Defiance is a normal way of children -- We have all seen it in children.
 - c. But Solomon says that the rod of correction will help get it out of him!!!
- F. Explain the purpose of the spanking to your child
1. Help the child to associate the pain they feel with a certain kind of behavior.
 2. They will soon avoid the behavior to avoid the pain.

3. Some modern day experts say that this is barbaric -- but it is not because this is what God says:
 - a. Heb. 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
 - b. Heb. 12:9 "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"
 - c. Heb. 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."
4. Explain to your child that the purpose of the spanking was not because you don't love them, but rather because you do love them. Reassure them of your love for them.
5. The board of education applied to the seat of learning will help the child.

G. The Goal of Discipline

1. To teach them to discipline themselves. This is called Self Control
2. We teach our children how to eat. Why? So they can feed themselves.
3. We teach our children how to dress themselves. Why? So they can dress themselves.
4. We discipline our children. Why? So they can discipline themselves.

CONCLUSION

1. Fathers are the Anchor of the Family:
 - a. They must be good examples to their children
 - b. They should provide proper discipline
2. A home where the father and mother are good examples of Christians who love God and His word, love one another and love their children will bring sunshine and happiness into the earthly home. Such a home will help prepare children for heaven.
3. Fathers who love their children will discipline them when needed. The purpose of discipline is to teach the child self-control.
4. There is a direct relationship between how the child interacts with his parents and how he will eventually interact with God. God demands obedience. And we must teach our children to obey us, so that when they are older they will obey God.
5. 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."

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning June 21, 2009
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