

Godly Fatherhood

There is a determined need to create an atmosphere of faith in our children, to provide consistent, balanced instruction, to intercede and petition for them, to ensure that their diet is balanced (too much TV/Computer who is doing the training?) to discipline and teach them the importance of repentance and forgiveness. We must be an example of godliness.

Scriptural References to Fatherhood

Deuteronomy 6 v 2-7

...so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 4 v 9

Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

God's Role for the Father

Ephesians 6 v 2-4

Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Isaiah 38 v 19

"It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness...

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Leadership in the Home

This is the highest priority. The primary responsibility for the provision of authority in the home has been assigned to men.

1 Timothy 3 v 4-5

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Prophet and Priest in the Home

The father of the house is to encourage, comfort and give direction to his children.

1 Thessalonians 2 v 11

...just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children...

An Intercessor in the Home

A minister represents God to the family and the family to God, so then should a father present God to his children and his children to God.

Isaiah 38 v 19

...A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness...

Discipline-Necessary and Profitable

Hebrews 12 v 5-11

...and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprovved by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

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What Proverbs tells us about Discipline and Fatherhood

1 v 8

Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching...

4 v 1

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding...

13 v 24

He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

15 v 5

A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.

19 v 13

A foolish son is destruction to his father...

19 v 18

Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.

22 v 15

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

23 v 13

Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

29 v 15

The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

29 v 17

Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.

Discipline must be just and instructive and righteous. It must not be carried out under frustration, anger, emotion or indulgence.

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Results of a Lack of Discipline and Authority

1 Samuel 3 v 13

For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.

Eli failed to discipline his children; maybe he was too busy with the work of the temple! His service to the Lord did not compensate for his failure at home. Samuel watched as Eli systematically lost his children and proceeded to fail with his family too. God did not honour Eli's dedication to the temple work by guaranteeing the salvation of his children.

And for us it is possible to love God and yet lose our children. Our number one priority is to evangelise our children at home. The deeds of the father affect the children.

Ezekiel 18 v 2

...The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'...

It's like the principal of the relay race, you can run well but if the handover of the baton is incomplete, the race is not won.

Fathers Must

Be an Example

1 Corinthians 11 v 1

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Practice Righteousness

- There is a need for openness and truthfulness
- We must fulfil our promises and warnings
- We must answer our children seriously; this is an opportunity for learning
- We must build in them a love of the truth
- We must be modest as the world becomes more extreme

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Firmly Set Rules

- No rules means the shifting tide of emotions and impulses
- Children thrive on order and routine
- There must not be an oversupply of petty regulations
- Too many rules creates dependence rather than responsible independence

Capitalise on the Simplicity of a Childs' Faith

Their faith becomes a doorway to experience. Faith is built on encounters with Jesus.

Practice Encountering the Presence of Jesus

Show your children how to communicate their relationship with Jesus.

According to James C Dobson in his book *Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives* the stage of children's growth to the age of 7 is that of optimum teachability which often is when dad is at his busiest at work. Fathers **must** take time and make time to impart godly values to their children.

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