

Only Fathers

Prov 17:1-6

- 1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 2 A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, And will share an inheritance among the brothers.
- 3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests the hearts.
- 4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.
- 5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 6 Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father. NKJV

One day Ron Hutchcraft received a call from the office of President Bush. The caller was helping the president prepare for a speech and wanted Ron Hutchcraft's input on the problems facing American society. The caller wanted to know what was the most important factor the president could address. Was it drugs, financial issues, crime, or a dozen other things. Ron did not hesitate but told the caller that the most significant problem facing America was fathers. To this caller could not believe was she was hearing. Later she called back wanting to argue the point. Ron said give me your fax number. And he faxed the president 21 pages of statistics to prove that the most important issue that America faces is fathers.

During the speech the president made this statement, that the most important issue facing American is fathers, to which he received his greatest response in applause of the entire speech.

Our problem in society as a whole is not just with fathers but our perspective on the importance of fathers. As one person wrote.

It's Official: The Experiment Has Failed

For the best part of thirty years we have been conducting a vast experiment with the family, and now the results are in: the decline of the two-parent, married-couple family has resulted in poverty, ill-health, educational failure, unhappiness, anti-social behaviour, isolation and social exclusion for thousands of women, men and children.

From Experiments in Living: The Fatherless Family By Rebecca O'Neill; Sept. 2002, CIVITAS

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.

90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.

85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes.

[Center for Disease Control]

71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.

[National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools]

70% of juveniles in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes

[U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept., 1988]

85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home.

[Fulton County Georgia Jail Populations and Texas Dept. of Corrections, 1992]

Nearly 2 of every 5 children in America do not live with their fathers.

[US News and World Report, February 27, 1995, p.39]

What does this mean? Children from fatherless homes are:
4.6 times more likely to commit suicide,
6.6 times to become teenaged mothers (if they are girls, of course),
24.3 times more likely to run away,
15.3 times more likely to have behavioral disorders,
6.3 times more likely to be in a state-operated institutions,
10.8 times more likely to commit rape,
6.6 times more likely to drop out of school,
15.3 times more likely to end up in prison while a teenager.

Most Christian men are aware of the familiar exhortation to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4) and the warning "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Colossians 3:21). Biblical messages to fathers frequently reflect the very real societal need for family discipline and godly leadership in the home (Proverbs 22:6, 15; Genesis 18:19).

Our text is a bit different. Although the message certainly implies godly leadership, the immediate focus is on the children. Children, we are told, receive "glory" from their fathers! How is this to come about?

Glory, in the biblical sense, centers on the value, the worthiness, or the reputation of the person or event so recognized. For instance, the Scripture teaches that the Lord Jesus "shall come in the glory of his Father" (Matthew 16:27; Mark 8:38; etc.), and that the reputation of God the Father was conferred on Christ Jesus: "For he received from God the Father honour and glory" (2 Peter 1:17).

So, fathers, please learn this critical principle. Your reputation is reflected onto your children.

Your behavior in the workplace is assumed to be an indicator of your children's potential.

What you say or do in moments of unguarded or uncontrolled passion will pass on to your children--for good or ill. The common saying "like father, like son" is recognized across time and culture as an accurate measure of human existence.

The Lord insists that "the iniquity of the fathers" will be passed "upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation" (Exodus 34:7). Would it not be far better that your children receive glory from your righteous life than shame (Psalm 89:45) from your iniquity?
HMM III

Mal 2:13-15

13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears,

With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. NKJV

- I. Fathers need to reclaim the position that God entrusted to them from the very beginning.
 - A. Howard has been having a SS class for young men to cover some of these issues.
 - 1. The subject matter is found in The Measure of a Man.
 - 2. The measure of a man is not in the job that he has or how much money he makes.
 - 3. The measure of a man is in his integrity, honesty, his faithfulness to his wife and his family.
 - 4. All the things that are mocked by our society today as making people saps or simple.
 - 5. That is until some unscrupulous men bring down an entire company along with its investors or even the economy of an entire nation and the world.
 - B. The Bible is filled with instructions on fatherhood and examples both good and bad of what fathers are to do.
 - 1. There are any number of good books and videos that will bring those Bible passages to light.
 - 2. You just have to want to know, God has called great men into ministry who have dedicated their lives to getting the message out to the fathers of this country.
 - 3. But you have to want it.
 - C. America needs to get back to the manufactures service manual, the Bible and follow the instructions it gives.
- II. Society needs to stop penalizing families where the father fulfills his position and instead, pouring out benefits to families where the father has neglected his position.
 - A. In the 50s and 60s our government made a foolish mistake, although it was with good intentions.
 - 1. They made it more profitable for a mother to have a house full of kids without a father.
 - 2. The government would take care of them.
 - 3. Johnson's war on poverty can easily be said to have been a tremendous failure.

4. We set up generations to come that would look only to the government to supply their needs.
 5. The only thing they really accomplished over the long haul was to encourage an ever increasing portion of the population living in poverty and dependent upon others to provide for them.
- B. It was kind of interesting that it was under the Clinton administration that many of those programs were sharply curtailed or ended.
1. But all of this would have been unnecessary if we would have only learned the lesson of Scripture about the indispensableness of fathers.
 2. When ever a society either knowingly or unknowingly departs from the principles of the family structure as displayed in the Bible, you are going to have problems on a major scale.
- III. Women need to accept what God says about the need for a father in the home.
- A. It is not that mothers are not important, they are.
1. But mothers are more often there while the fathers are allowed and even encouraged to be absent.
 2. How we have come to accept that is beyond me.
 3. I knew of a good Christian man who had been divorced after having a couple of girls and over 20 years had hardly attempted to be a part of their lives.
 4. No doubt it was part of a court order or some other thing, but why is it this way.
- B. The women's movement is partly to blame.
1. In every reaction there is often an over reaction.
 2. Women are to be valued by their families.
 3. They are a very necessary part of the family.
 4. But they cannot be both parents, God did not make them that way.

So on this fathers day 2010 I encourage fathers to step up. Do not let society dictate what your role is to be. Let God be true and every man a liar. And everyone sitting here today is either a part of the problem or a part of the cure. If you are not involved, if you don't vote for the right people, you are a part of the problem.

God bless fathers. May our society soon come to realize that God meant them to be a blessing to their families and the glory of their children.