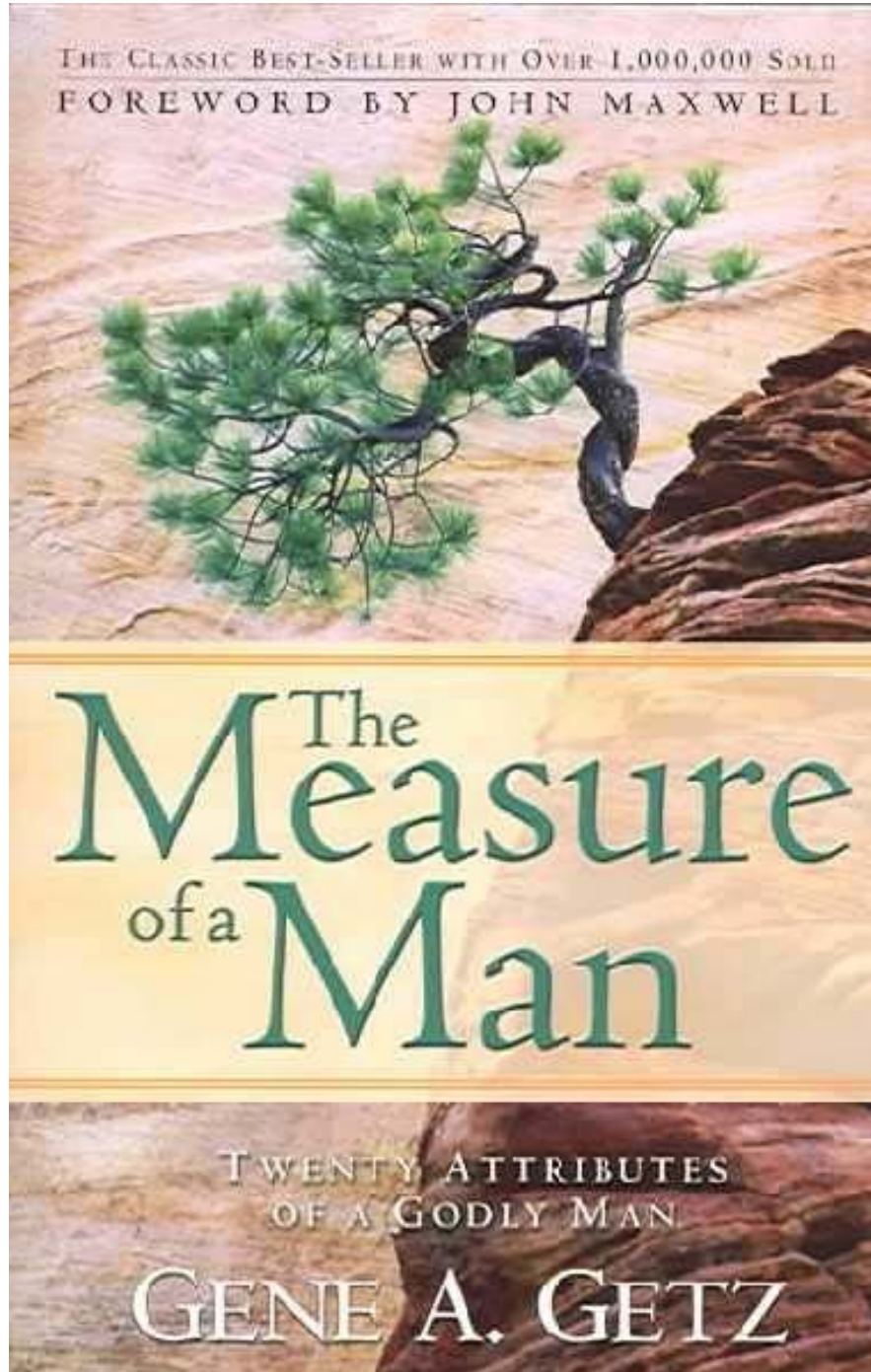


CROSSROADS
Community Church



FATHER'S DAY 2009

Some Helpful Resources

- **Websites:**

- PromiseKeepers.org (resources on being a godly man)
- WalkThru.org (resources for leading your family spiritually)
- RansomedHeart.com (Wild at Heart and John Eldredge)

- **Books:**

- The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace (encouragement for your wife)
- The Complete Husband by Lou Priolo (help for the husband—serious inquirers only!)
- Wild at Heart by John Eldredge (a resource that understands men)
- The Measure of a Man by Gene A. Getz (a classic on the subject of being a godly man)
- Ten Secrets for the Man in the Mirror by Patrick Morley (thought provoking and easy to read)
- Ordering Your Private World by Gordon MacDonald (one of the most helpful books Pastor Mike has ever read)
- Pathways of Spiritual Living by Susan Annette Muto (especially if you have a Catholic background)
- Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster (*the* definitive book on developing spiritual habits)

- **Sermons:**

- Crossroadscoco.com/sermons:
 - Sermon from June 20 and 21, 2009
 - Sermon from June 14 & 15, 2008

50 Questions To Ask Your Wife

1. What are your 5 favorite foods, with the most favorite first?
2. What are your 5 favorite kinds of meals, with the most favorite first?
3. What are your 5 favorite desserts, with the most favorite first?
4. What are your 5 favorite restaurants, with the most favorite first?
5. What is your favorite color?
6. What are your 5 favorite hobbies, with the most favorite first?
7. What are your 5 favorite recreations, with the most favorite first?
8. What are your 5 favorite sources of reading, with the most favorite first?
9. What gifts do you like?
10. What is your favorite book(s) of the Bible? Why?
11. What is your favorite verse(s) of the Bible? Why?

12. What is your favorite song?
13. What makes you the most fulfilled or happiest as a woman?
14. What makes you the most fulfilled or happiest as a wife?
15. What makes you the most fulfilled or happiest as a mother?
16. What makes you saddest as a woman?
17. What makes you saddest as a wife?
18. What makes you saddest as a mother?
19. What do you fear the most?
20. What other fears do you have?
21. What do you look forward to the most?
22. How much sleep do you need?
23. What are your skills?

24. What is your spiritual gift?
25. What are your weaknesses?
26. What things (personal, home, car, etc.) need repairing?
27. With what chores and responsibilities do you like my help?
28. What caresses do you enjoy the most?
29. What caresses do you enjoy the least?
30. What action of mine provides you the greatest sexual pleasure?
31. What other things stimulate you sexually?
32. At what times do you need assurance of my love the most?
33. How can that love be shown?
34. What can I do that will make it easier to discuss and work on areas or problems that are uncomfortable to you?
35. What concerns do you have that I do not seem interested in?

36. What things do I do that irritate you?
37. What desires do you have that we haven't discussed?
38. What do you enjoy doing with me, with the most enjoyable first?
39. What things can I do that show my appreciation for you?
40. What varying desires (spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, social, worth, appreciation, recreational, security, etc.) would you like me to provide?
41. In what ways would you like me to protect you (physically, spiritually, socially, emotionally)?
42. In what ways would you like me to sacrifice for you?
43. What things are first in my life? As you look at me, what do you see? What is your perception of me?
44. What implied or unspoken desires and wishes of yours would you like for me to fulfill?
45. What concerns and interests of yours would you like me to support?
46. How much time would be good for us to spend together each day?

47. In helping family members to use their skills and develop their abilities, what motivating factors would be helpful for me to use?

48. What can I do that provides the greatest comfort and encouragement for you when you are hurt, fearful, anxious, or worried?

49. What personal habits do I have that you would like changed?

50. What ways demonstrate to you that you are a very important person who is as important or more important than I am?

Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries

How to Show Love for Your Wife

1. Make her first place in your life and show it; second only to your relationship to Jesus Christ.

If she senses she is not first place, she will doubt your love and become insecure.

How may you find out her place in your life?

What means more to you:

- 1) *Your wife or your children?*
- 2) *Talking with your wife or sex with her?*
- 3) *Your wants or her needs?*
- 4) *Praying with your wife or praying with others?*
- 5) *Helping other people or helping your wife?*
- 6) *Your work or your family?*
- 7) *Church activities or family needs?*

She knows when she is not cherished, not uppermost in your affections.

She knows what you delight in more than her.

The husband, in his headship, is to express love for his wife by meeting her needs. I Peter 3:7

2. Recognize her attempts to please you.

Her attention to immediate details and her desire to express love to you may often motivate her to do little things for you.

When you fail to recognize them or express appreciation for them you are insensitive to her. She needs your admiration and praise. Don't disregard, laugh at or belittle what she does for you. Be very careful to watch for her attempts to please and then express appreciation.

3. Don't unfavorably compare her with other people, especially women.

Generally, don't point out some ability she lacks or some appearance you prefer. In her eyes, that person pleases you more than she does.

4. Be the spiritual leader in your home.

She longs for this. If you do not provide it or do show disinterest in it, she is unable to place her full confidence in you. She may seek this leadership from others.

How to be the spiritual leader:

- 1) *Personal time with the Lord.*
- 2) *Family devotions.*
- 3) *Solving family problems biblically.*
- 4) *Sharing new spiritual insights with her.*
- 5) *Value her opinion.*

She sees things in a different frame of reference or from a different perspective than you do.

Let her know: "As far as possible, I will not make any decisions until we are one in spirit about that decision."

6. Show self-control and personal discipline.

In all areas of life.

Did you marry her for satisfaction of sexual desires or to meet her needs?

When you do nothing when she attempts to help you or correct you, this hurts her even more.

7. Prepare her for change.

She needs time for change. She needs to make the mental readjustment before that change occurs.

8. Be consistent with her discipline of children.

Don't take sides against her. Don't defend the children. This causes her to doubt your loyalty to her. She may think you are trying to turn the children against her.

Settle differences away from children.

9. Don't correct her in public.

Don't use jokes about her or cutting remarks to her in front of other people in order to emphasize some change in her you would like to have.

If she makes a mistake or misquotes someone, tell her about it privately. Then, only if her statement will have harmful results for someone.

10. Speak to her in a gentle spirit.

Be a gentleman. Do not use harsh words. Always look for ways to communicate to her in gentleness with tact.

11. Praise her.

For more than her cooking and physical involvement, for qualities of character she possesses. This requires thought and planning.

12. Remove her fears.

Discover them - listen. Write them out. Then write out things you can do to eliminate them.

13. Show creative affection.

Other than sex. Affection without sex - good manners - be courteous.

14. Build security with her.

Knowing she has a permanent place in your heart and affection. Be careful never to show attention to another woman in such a way as to disillusion her.

Be a one-woman man.

1) *Do not enjoy company of another woman more than your wife.*

2) *Do not become delighted with another woman.*

3) *Don't praise another woman in front of your wife.*

4) *Don't talk favorably about another woman to your wife.*

5) *Be delighted with your wife.*

6) *Notice her more.*

7) *Attach more value to her.*

8) *Admit when you are wrong and she is right.*

15. Delight in fulfilling her little wishes.

She has little things for you to do. Little; no imposition of your time, gives you chance to reassure her of your love by enjoying and doing things for her and meeting her needs.

Don't replace it with a major job; gives her the idea her suggestions and ideas are not good and yours are better.

She feels like it was forced on you and that makes her feel like a demanding wife. Do it in the spirit of "I'm enjoying doing it." Not as a job to get out of the way.

16. Provide time for intimate conversation.

Plan ahead and free atmosphere from distractions.

17. Spend time with the children.

It delights your wife.

Give them your undivided attention.

Do what they want to do.

Frequency is very important.

Ways a Husband May Express Love to His Wife

(How to Convince Your Wife You Love Her)

Ephesians 5:25

Evaluate the way you express love to your wife. Circle the ways you are neglecting. Ask your wife to go over the list and put a check mark in front of the ways she would like you to express love. Ask her to add other things to the list.

You may express love to your wife by:

1. Functioning as the loving leader of your home.
2. Frequently telling her you love her.
3. Giving her a regular amount of money to spend in any way she chooses.
4. Leading family devotions regularly.
5. Smiling and being cheerful when you come home from work.
6. Helping her wash and dry the dishes at least twice a week.
7. Taking care of the children for at least three hours every week so that she has free time to do whatever she wants.
8. Taking her out for dinner or to do some fun thing at least once a week.
9. Doing the “fix-it” jobs she wants done around the house.
10. Greeting her when you come home with a smile, a hug, a kiss, and an “Am I glad to see you. I really missed you today.”
11. Giving her a lingering kiss.
12. Frequently patting her on the shoulder or fanny or holding her hand or caressing her.
13. Being willing to talk to her about her concerns and not belittle her for having those concerns.
14. Looking at her with an adoring expression.
15. Sitting close to her.
16. Rubbing her back or ...
17. Shaving or taking a bath or brushing your teeth before you have sexual relations.

18. Wearing her favorite after-shave lotion.
 19. Writing love notes or letters to her.
 20. Letting her that know you appreciate her and what you appreciate about her. Do this often and for things that are sometimes taken for granted.
 21. Doing the dishes while she relaxes or takes a bubble bath.
 22. Playing with her; sharing her hobbies and recreational preferences enthusiastically; including her in yours.
 23. Seeking to set a good example before the children.
 24. Talking about her favorably to the children when she can hear you and when she cannot.
 25. Bragging about her good points to others; letting her know you are proud to have her as your wife.
 26. Maintaining your own spiritual life through Bible study, prayer, regular church attendance and fellowship with God's people.
 27. Handling your affairs decently and in order; structuring your time and using it wisely.
 28. Making plans prayerfully and carefully.
 29. Asking her advice when you have problems or decisions to make.
 30. Following her advice unless to do so would violate biblical principles.
 31. Fulfilling your responsibilities.
 32. Being sober, but not somber, about life.
 33. Having a realistic, biblical, positive attitude toward life.
 34. Discussing plans with your wife before you make decisions, and when the plans are made sharing them fully with her, giving reasons for making the decisions you did.
 35. Thanking her in creative ways for her attempts to please you.
 36. Asking forgiveness often and saying, "I was wrong and will try to change."
 37. Actually changing where and when you should.
 38. Sharing your insights, reading, good experiences with her.
 39. Planning for a mini-honeymoon where the two of you can do whatever you want to do.
-

40. Giving a low whistle or some other expression of admiration when she wears a new dress or your favorite negligee or.
41. Gently brushing her leg under the table.
42. Being reasonably happy to go shopping with her.
43. Relating what happened at work or whatever you did apart from her.
44. Reminiscing about the early days of your marriage.
45. Expressing appreciation for her parents and relatives.
46. Taking her out to breakfast.
47. Agreeing with her about getting a new dress or some other item.
48. Thank her when she supports your decisions and cooperates enthusiastically. Especially make it a matter of praise when she supports and helps enthusiastically at times when you know she doesn't fully agree.
49. Asking her to have sexual relations with you and seeking to be especially solicitous of her desires. Express gratitude when she tries to please you.
50. Buying gifts for her.
51. Remembering anniversaries and other events that are special to her.
52. Watching the TV program or going where she wants to go instead of doing what you want to do. Do it cheerfully and enthusiastically.
53. Being cooperative and appreciative when she holds you, caresses or kisses you.
54. Being cooperative when she tries to arouse you and desires to have sexual relations. Never make fun of her for expressing her desires.
55. Running errands gladly.
56. Pampering her and making a fuss over her.
57. Being willing to see things from her point of view.
58. Being lovingly honest with her - no backdoor messages - no withholding of the truth that may hinder your present or future relationship.
59. Indicating you want to be alone with her and talk or just lie in each other's arms.
60. Refusing to "cop out," "blow up," attack, blame shift, withdraw, or exaggerate when she seeks to make constructive suggestions or discuss problems.

61. Giving her your undivided attention when she wants to talk.
62. Cheerfully staying up past your bedtime to solve a problem or share her burdens.
63. Getting up in the middle of the night to take care of the children so that she may continue to sleep.
64. Holding her close while expressing tangible and vocal love when she is hurt, discouraged, weary or burdened.
65. Planning vacations and trips with her.
66. Sometimes helping her yourself instead of telling the children to “help mommy.”
67. Being eager to share a good joke or some other interesting information you have learned.
68. Joining with her in a team ministry in the church.
69. Doing a Bible study or research project together.
70. Establishing a family budget.
71. Keeping yourself attractive and clean.
72. Being cooperative and helpful as a co-host when you have people in for dinner or fellowship.
73. Asking her to pray with you about something.
74. Spending time with the children in play, study, and communication.
75. Acknowledging that there are some specific areas or ways in which you need to improve.
76. Refusing to disagree with her in the presence of others.
77. Cooperating with her in establishing family goals and then in fulfilling them.
78. Being available and eager to fulfill her desires whenever and wherever possible and proper.
79. Beginning each day with cheerfulness and tangible expressions of affection.
80. Planning to spend some time alone with her for sharing and communicating every day.
81. Remembering to tell her when you must work late.
82. Refusing to work late on a regular basis.

83. Taking care of the yard work properly.
84. Helping the children with their homework.
85. Refusing to compare her unfavorably with other people.
86. Handling money wisely.
87. Not allowing work, church or recreational activities to keep you from fulfilling marriage or family responsibilities.
88. Trying to find things to do with her.
89. Being willing to go out or stay home with her.
90. Being polite, courteous and mannerly with her.
91. Refusing to be overly dependent on your parents or friends.
92. Developing mutual friends.
93. Providing adequate hospitalization insurance.
94. Trying to the level of your ability to provide housing and some support for your family in case you should die or become handicapped.
95. Being especially helpful and solicitous when she is not feeling well.
96. Being on time.
97. Going to P.T.A. or other school groups with her.
98. Letting her sleep in once in a while by getting the children breakfast and, if possible, off to school.
99. Frequently allowing her to have her own way, unless to do so would be sinful.
100. Putting the children to bed at night.
101. Being gentle and tender and holding her before and after sexual relations.
102. Not nit-picking and finding fault and giving the impression that you expect her to be perfect.

Prepared by Dr. Wayne Mack

Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries

Score Card for Husbands

If you honestly evaluate yourself by this score card, you will be able to discern where you are failing and need to improve to be the husband God wants you to be. *Suggestion:* If you really want to know how you are doing, ask your wife to rate you.

Rating Scale: Never =0; Seldom =1; Frequently =3; Regularly =4

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Do I love my wife and am I expressing Biblical (unselfish) love to her as I should? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Is my love an unconditional love? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I love her even when I don't feel like it? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I regularly express my love in words? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I seek to provide for her varying desires (physical, emotional, intellectual, social, recreational, spiritual: for worth, appreciation, security, etc.)? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I protect her (physically, spiritually, socially, emotionally)? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I assist her with chores and responsibilities? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I sacrifice for her? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I freely share my life, my concerns, etc., with her? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I regularly show appreciation? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I put her first in my life after my relationship with God? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I treat her with tenderness, respect, and courtesy? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I fulfill her implied or unspoken desires and wishes? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I frequently talk about her favorably in front of the children and other people? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I remember birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions? | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Do I ask her advice frequently? | 0 1 2 3 4 |

Do I ask forgiveness for failures quickly?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I accept her suggestions without becoming upset?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I change when she makes a suggestion?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I handle the finances responsibly?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I give her money to spend as she wishes?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I run errands gladly?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I take care of the children and let her do what she wants frequently?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I give her my undivided attention when she wants to talk?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I comfort and encourage her when she is hurt, fearful, anxious and weary?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I support her in her concerns and interests?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I plan to spend some time alone with her every day?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I change personal habits that annoy her?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I encourage her initiative and creativity?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I treat her as a very worthwhile person who is as important or more important than I am?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I really make my relationship with her a priority matter?	0 1 2 3 4

2. Take at least 10 of the questions that you have answers with a 3 or 4 and give one or two examples of times you manifested love to our wife in these ways.

3. Select at least five ways in which you need to improve your expression of love to your wife. List these ways and plan what you will do to improve.

4. Am I a good manager? Answer with 0-4 scale (1 Timothy 3:4,5; Ephesians 5:23) 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I know what is going on in my home from day to day? 0 1 2 3 4
- Am I leading my family in the direction it is going? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I know the skills and abilities, strengths and weaknesses, problems and concerns of family members? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I use the skills of family members? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I have clearly defined goals for my family? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I motivate family members to use their skills and develop their abilities? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I lead in family worship regularly? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I spontaneously talk about spiritual matters? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I delegate responsibilities clearly? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I hold family members accountable for their responsibilities? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I have clear Biblical convictions? 0 1 2 3 4
- Have I made these convictions known in a specific way? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I set an example for my family in these convictions? 0 1 2 3 4
- Do I have foresight in seeing potential problems and prepare my family for them? 0 1 2 3 4

Do I get along well with other family and help them to get along with each other?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I spend time with family members regularly, listening to them, playing with, encouraging them, communicating goals and directions to them?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I provide order and organization that give security?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I commend family members regularly?	0 1 2 3 4
Am I really in control of what is happening in my family?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I lead my family in church attendance and involvement?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I plan fun and recreational times for my family regularly?	0 1 2 3 4
Do I make decisions in a Biblical way?	0 1 2 3 4

5. Take several of the questions that you answered with a 3 or 4 and give examples of how you lead your family in these areas.

6. Take several leadership areas where these questions revealed some weaknesses and plan what you will do to improve in these areas.

Prepared by Dr. Wayne Mack

Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries

How to Say, "I love you."

Rate yourself in order of importance (1 for most important "I Like", 9 for least important).

Then rate what you think is most important to your spouse.

	I LIKE	SPOUSE LIKES
1. Gifts	_____	_____
2. Be responsible	_____	_____
3. Help with my responsibilities	_____	_____
4. Time	_____	_____
5. Talk to me	_____	_____
6. Listen	_____	_____
7. Sexual touch	_____	_____
8. Non-sexual touch	_____	_____
9. Words expressing love	_____	_____

Discuss and plan ways to change.

The Father's Charge - A Biblical Approach to Parenting

**(this is Lesson # 3 from <http://www.faithlafayette.org/95Files.aspx>
Lesson # 6 is included in this packet)**

It has been said that “Everything rises or falls on leadership.” That statement is especially true in the home. God’s Word has some very direct statements for husbands, fathers, and situations where a single parent has the main leadership role in the home. Think about the implications of Paul’s words in Ephesians 6:4:

“And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Later in this lesson, we will study some specific applications of this verse, but God makes it very clear that He wants fathers involved in the parenting process. We all understand that parenting is not a piece of cake. In fact, parenting is a lot of hard work!

What are some words or phrases that you would use to describe the parenting process?

Godly leadership from the father is a key to having a home that pleases God. However, even if a father will not take the responsibility that God has placed on him, then one parent who is seeking to please God and be biblical is better than neither parent seeking to do what is right.

In this lesson, we want to lay a biblical foundation for the father’s part in the parenting process.

I. The Father’s Responsibility!

God has given fathers a very large piece of authority and responsibility as a parent. Since the father is also the “*head of the home*” (Ephesians 5:23 **“For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church”**), it is the father who will stand before God and give an account for the leadership (or lack of it) that he provides in his home.

There are certain attitudes that a father cannot have about his responsibilities if he is going to please God in this important role. For example, what is wrong with the following ideas that a father may have about his parenting responsibilities?

- “I work all day to provide for my family. I’ve earned the right to take it easy when I come home.”

- “I believe in parenting: I delegate it to my wife.”

- *“I’m too busy to take the time to deal with these ‘petty’ issues like diapers, poor grades, etc..”*

- *“My daddy didn’t spend much time with me, and I turned out okay.”*

What are some reasons a father might say some of the statements above?

What do the following verses imply about a father’s role or responsibility in the parenting process?

- Proverbs 1:8 **“Hear, my son, your father's instruction.”**

Implies:

- Proverbs 3:12 **“For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, even as a father, the son in whom he delights.”**

Implies:

- Proverbs 13:1 **“A wise son accepts his father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”**

Implies:

- Luke 1:17 **“And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”**

Implies:

When it comes to child rearing in our culture, dads tend to neglect. Our culture does not train fathers to function biblically in their role. What are some modern examples of poorly trained fathers?

A father fulfilling his responsibilities has an impact on his ability to serve in leadership positions in the church. The qualifications for a deacon (and a pastor) are given in 1 Timothy 3.

- 1 Timothy 3:4-5 **“He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)”**
- 1 Timothy 3:12 **“Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.”**

Can a man biblically serve as deacon or pastor if his children are out of control?

Every man in the church ought to be growing to be the kind of leader described in 1 Timothy 3!

The point of this section is simple: A father cannot leave the rearing of the children to the mother. He may delegate some of the authority and responsibility, but the father is to be checking up on the process and growth of each person involved. The father should be very involved because he is ultimately responsible for what happens in the home.

II. The Details of a Father’s Responsibility

A. Remember the goal.

The goal of this command (Ephesians 6:4) is POSITIVE, not negative.

It is too easy to get caught up in making sure a child doesn’t do this or that! That would be a *negative* goal. God’s goal is a *positive* goal: **“Be bringing them up.”** This simply means to help them to please God by being like Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:28 **“And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.”**

A father doesn’t “slap the child back up on the tracks” when the child makes mistakes. Instead, a father must “lay the tracks” of life in front of his child by offering a godly model in his own life and biblical direction and advice in all other areas.

B. Don’t provoke a child to anger!

Please read the following verse very carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Ephesians 6:4 **“And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”**

Why would God “single out” fathers and direct these words to them?

It would be incorrect to say that mothers are “excluded” by Ephesians 6:4. The emphasis is to make it very clear to fathers that they are expected to provide the leadership in the parenting process.

Colossians 3:21 **“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.”**

1. What these verses do NOT mean:

- Never oppose, cross, deny, or upset the child.

There are two examples from Scripture where the father failed to fulfill his God-given responsibility:

#1: King David with his son Adonijah.

1 Kings 1:6 **“His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, ‘Why have you done so?’”**

As a result, Adonijah wanted wrongfully to take David’s place as the king. 1 Kings 1:5 **“Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, ‘I will be king.’ So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him.”**

#2: Eli, the High Priest, suffered for not rebuking his sons.

1 Samuel 3:13 **“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.”**

2. What Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4 DO mean:

- Do not *provoke* a child to a *wrathful lifestyle*.
- Do not *exasperate* them and *discourage* them by taking away any hope of changing and doing right.

3. There are two things a father needs to know about these verses:

- 1) These instructions are NOT OPTIONAL. These verses are COMMANDS. A father is to obey them whether he feels like it or not or whether it is convenient for him.

- 2) These commands are also given in the PRESENT tense (continuous action).
Do it and keep on doing it!

Summary: Rather than making Colossians 3 and Ephesians 6 say to a father, “Do not upset them,” the teaching is “do not allow them to become habituated to sinful anger” or to an “impulsive lifestyle.” {Specific examples of violating this command will be discussed under III.}]

C. Recognize anger when you see it.

There are two kinds of anger:

- 1) Open rebellion (against God, parents, church, state, etc.)

What does this type of anger look like in every-day living?

- 2) Stubbornness, passive resentment, apathy, indifference, sub-par performance, and even silence.

Example: What are some different ways that “Johnny” can respond when asked to take out the garbage?

D. Avoiding the extremes

“Bring them up” is not passive; it requires action, and it requires effort. How would a “biblical parent” respond to each of the following extremes of parenting?

The Passive Parent:

- “It’s no big deal. It’s just a passing phase.”

Biblical response:

- “My child wouldn’t do that.”

Biblical response:

- “He’s too young to learn.”

Biblical response:

- *“I know its wrong-but it was so cute.”*

Biblical response:

The Impatient Parent

- *“Why me?”*

Biblical response:

- *“I deserve a problem-free child.”*

Biblical response:

- *“This child has no right to bother me.”*

Biblical response:

- *“Why can’t he figure this out? What is so hard about this? He’s just not getting the point!”*

Biblical response:

- *“It’s not his fault.”*

Biblical response:

E. What’s next? Building or rebuilding the relationship!

1. Ask God to help you understand your child(ren). Remember that each child is different.

- James 1:5 **“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”**

2. Be a goal-oriented father.

Don’t get caught up in simply stopping sinful thinking and action (“putting off”) and fail to remember your goal is to help your child to be more like Jesus Christ. Dealing with sinful thinking and action is just the first step—you have to replace the old habits (“put on”) with obedience to God’s Word.

3. When a child tests the parent the most, the child needs help.
 - 1 John 4:11 **“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”**
4. Commend the character strengths.
 - Romans 13:7 **“Render to all what is due them: . . . honor to whom honor is due.”**

How will commending a child’s character strengths help in the parenting process?

5. Be willing to ask forgiveness when you are wrong.
 - Matthew 5:23-24 **“If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”**

Develop a God-consciousness in the child.

How will this help a child to avoid developing an angry lifestyle?

7. Teach the child special skills: do projects together.
8. Express love in ways your child can understand, as well as verbally.
 - 1 John 3:18 **“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”**

What are some things (routine and sacrificially) a father can do to show his love for his child?

9. Be reasonable and sensitive to the needs around you.
 - (NIV) Philippians 4:5 **“Let your gentleness be evident to all.”**
10. Consider how you can provoke your children to love and good works
 - Hebrews 10:24 **“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.”**

11. Communicate with them about problems, solutions, and the goal of parenting: All you do for them is for their benefit and for God's glory and that parents will give an account to God for each decision.
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 **“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10 **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**

III. Some Special Situations

Some families are fatherless due to illegitimacy, divorce, abandonment, or death. Children in these situations do not have to turn out badly. God has provided the grace to overcome in *all* circumstances.

Psalm 146:9 **“The LORD protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow.”**

2 Corinthians 12:9 **And He (the Lord) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.**

Additionally, God has provided the local church, which is to be ministering to the fatherless.

James 1:27 **“This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”**

What are some things that other men in the church can do to reach out to a young person who is fatherless?

IV. 25 Ways to Provoke a Child to Anger (from How to Help an Angry Child, by Lou Priolo)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of marital harmony 2. Establishing/maintaining a child-centered home 3. Modeling sinful anger 4. Consistently disciplining in anger 5. Scolding 6. Being inconsistent with discipline 7. Having double standards 8. Being legalistic (Making man-made rules equal to God’s law, or a test of spirituality) 9. Not admitting when you are wrong 10. Constantly finding fault 11. Parents reversing God given roles 12. Not listening to the child’s opinion or side of the story 13. Comparing children to others 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Not having time to talk 15. Not praising the child 16. Failing to keep promises 17. Chastising him in front of others 18. Giving too much freedom 19. Not giving enough freedom 20. Making fun of the child 21. Abusing them physically 22. Calling them names 23. Having unrealistic expectations 24. Showing favoritism toward one child over another 25. Employing child-training methodologies that are inconsistent with God’s Word
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Application: Take the following steps:

1) Identify the specific ways you have been provoking your child to anger.

2) Confess these sins to God. Ask His forgiveness and the child’s forgiveness.

3) Develop a plan with your child’s assistance (if possible) to replace those sinful behaviors with biblical ones.

Applying the Principles of Parenting

(this is Lesson # 6 from <http://www.faithlafayette.org/95Files.aspx>)

One of the most wonderful aspects of the Christian life is learning to apply biblical principles in specific situations. After all, learning is all about doing – it's putting into practice the truth of God's Word. James 1:22 says, "**But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.**"

Take a moment and look over the major points of the lessons we have studied (go to <http://www.faithlafayette.org/95Files.aspx> for lessons #1, 2, 4, and 5):

Lesson #1: The Goal of Parenting

- Parenting requires a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a reliable source of truth (i.e. the Word of God), and an understanding that children are born with a sin nature.
- The goal of parenting is to bring the children up to please God by being like Jesus Christ (a servant, submissive to authority, and concerned about the spiritual life of others).

Lesson #2: The Heart of a Child

- Parents need to help their children deal with the "idols" (i.e. whatever the child would make more important than pleasing God).

Two questions to consider in helping us to know if something is an "idol":

How does a child respond when he/she doesn't get it (i.e. the desire)?

Is the child willing to sin in order to get it (i.e. the desire)?

- Parents must maintain a "God-centered home" and not a "child-centered home."

Lesson #3: The Father's Charge

- The father is ultimately responsible for what goes on in a home – including parenting.
- The father has been given special admonition to remember the goal of parenting and to not provoke his children to an angry lifestyle or exasperate them and discourage them by taking away any hope of changing and doing right.
- Parents have to avoid the two extremes: Being 1) a *passive* parent 2) an *impatient* parent.

Lesson #4: Teaching Your Children

- Teaching simply means helping a child build inner convictions.
- Parents need to teach their children because parents are responsible to God and must give an account; each child has a sin nature and needs to be taught, and parenting is a "disciple-making" process.
- Parents can teach by using Q & A, everyday life situations, their own example, a formal worship time, and using the help of the church and other appointed authorities.
- Parents are to teach truths regarding salvation, Christian growth, foundational truths, and

practical truths for everyday life such as the following:

Teens focus: Seeing the opportunities to grow in each struggle

Youth (6-12): Developing character qualities

Children (birth – 5): Respecting and obeying authority

Lesson #5: The Place of Discipline

- Parents must avoid the wrong idea that discipline alone is enough.
- Parents must remember that God disciplines His children.
- Parents must view biblical discipline as having the goal of correction, not punishment.
- Communication, love, strong convictions, and rules that are reasonable, definable, and enforceable, accompanied with appropriate rewards and corrections are necessary ingredients in the parenting process.

Let's take a look at some case studies and include some of these principles we've studied!

Case #1

Dakota is a 3-month-old who is still not sleeping through the night. Every night her mother nurses her to sleep, but has to get up again to feed her at 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. Dakota is well cared for, and her mother loves her very much. However, the mother is getting very tired physically.

A. What are some truths about the child that a parent will especially need to remember at this time?

B. What are some “put off’s” and “put on’s” that the child needs to learn?

Put Off <i>(actions & thoughts that need to stop)</i>	Put On <i>(actions & thoughts that need to occur)</i>

C. Will a spanking help a child in this situation? Why or why not?

Case #2

Kara is a 10-year-old who has “flipped” over a new boy she met at school. She has started to spend over an hour on the phone with her best friend discussing what he said today, who he looked at, and whether or not he noticed her. Her school homework paper is filled with doodles of hearts and his and her name. She is not getting her assignments done and you are afraid it will hurt her grades.

A. Is this just a passing fad to be ignored? Why or why not?

B. What are some possible “*idols*” in Kara’s heart?

C. What are some specific topics that her parents need to teach her?

D. What types of limits/plans would you recommend her parents implement to correct these problems?

Case #3

At 12, John has “started” arguing with his mother. It seems that in every discussion, there are some words that just aren’t accurate enough for John. Little things can “set him off,” and he is short-tempered and disrespectful. Dad has been busy a lot lately and has had little time to spend with John.

A. How would you use Ephesians 6:1-2 to help John look at the situation from God’s point of view?

Ephesians 6:1-2 **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise).”**

B. What impact does the father’s absence have on this situation? What biblical advice would you give to this dad?

C. What is more important to John than obeying the Scripture?

Case #4

Chad is a 3-year-old. Although he used to go to Sunday School with no problem, he suddenly decided that he doesn't want to go. There is nothing different about the Sunday School, and when he gets picked up, he always acts like he had a great time! Now Chad is clinging to Mommy and crying, and refusing to be dropped off. Chad is receiving a spanking every Sunday, but he still doesn't want to go in the door.

A. In what ways is Chad manipulating his mom?

B. Should the parents assume that Chad has had a "negative experience" that is causing this behavior? Why or why not?

C. At this point, should the mom consider some alternative forms of discipline? If so, what would they be?

D. How can Chad's parents prepare him for the event -- the evening before, the morning of, and on the way to church?

Case #5

Mary and Jim have developed an elaborate plan to deal with their 10 year old son Max's behavior. Max has not been interested in cleaning his room, and it has become messy. Since Max likes money, he is rewarded with money every day he cleans his room. After three months of success, Max has \$12. However, he has started to allow his room to get messy again. Jim is considering raising the reward to \$2/week.

A. What is the main "idol" of Max's heart?

B. Should John be receiving an allowance for cleaning his room? Why or why not?

Case #6

It seems that every time Robbie and Rachel go over to Grandma's for the weekend, they are "sheer terror" when they come home. They don't want to go to bed on time, they want to have a short-order cook in the kitchen, and they don't listen to instructions. Jeanne, their mother, remembers life at home as being a lot more strict than what it is for the grandkids.

A. How does Deuteronomy 4:9 give guidance in this situation?

Deuteronomy 4:9 ***"Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons."***

B. What should the parents communicate to the grandparents to solve this problem?

C. How can the parents better prepare the children for trips to the grandparents?

Praise Her (At Least) Once a Day

Promise yourself to tell your wife daily what you appreciate about her. Promise yourself—not her—because she might develop expectations and be hurt if you forget. Begin by learning to verbalize your thoughts of appreciation.

Here are some typical statements wives have told me they enjoy hearing:

1. "What a meal! The way you topped that casserole with sour cream and cheese ... M-m-m-m ... that was delicious."
2. (This next one is great with an early-morning kiss.) "Honey, I sure love you. You're special to me."
3. While in the company of friends say, "This is my wife. She's the greatest!"
4. Put little notes on the refrigerator like, "I loved the way you looked last night."
5. "You're such a dedicated wife to make my lunch every day."
6. "Our kids are really blessed to have a mother like you. You take such good care of them."
7. "I don't know if I prefer the dress or what's in it better."
8. "Do I like your hairstyle? I'd like any hairstyle you have just because it's on you."
9. "I'd love to take you out tonight just to show you off."
10. "Honey, you've worked so hard. Why don't you sit down and rest for a while before dinner? I can wait."
11. "You're so special to me that I'd like to do something special for you right now. Why don't you take a bubble bath and relax. I'll do up the dishes and get the kids started on their homework."

In her book *Forever My Love*, Margaret Hardisty emphasized that women tend to approach life on an emotional plane while men approach it on a more logical, sometimes coldly objective one. Therefore, when you praise your wife, it's important to use words and actions that communicate praise from her point of view. Anything that is romantic or deals with building deeper relationships usually pleases wives.

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Things—We Never Get Enough

from the book *Joy That Lasts* by Gary Smalley

When people don't satisfy us, we often look to money and the things money can buy—cars, entertainment systems, computers—the list is endless.

For those who live in the United States, the first place most couples expect to find fulfillment is in their own home. John and his wife, Joan, went through emotions similar to mine. Each expected fulfillment from the other. When they didn't find it there, they thought a new home might help. They built a beautiful house on several acres in a suburb of San Francisco, but they still had trouble getting along. John felt they needed a change of location, so he built a beautiful mountain cabin. That didn't solve the problem, however, because they fought just as well in their cabin as in their spacious San Francisco home.

It seems that few couples are content without a proper home. We're concerned about the neighborhood, the number of bathrooms, the view from our living-room windows, and whether we have appropriate furnishings and coordinated interior decorations. Whether we rent or own or live in an apartment or a sprawling split-level, we expect pleasure and satisfaction from our home. We even feel cheated if we're not living in the right location. But getting our dream home can cause more anxiety than not getting it. Often we end up worried about how we're going to make our mortgage payments, how or where to add another room, and what security system to install to protect our investment.

When Norma and I finally bought our first house five years after we were married, everything about it—the smells, the fresh paint, the new neighbors—excited us. But after the initial thrill wore off, we noticed how loud the neighbor's dog barked and how irritating the continual loud music was that came from their patio. What's more, they did nothing to control their dandelions, so their weeds quickly spread to our grass.

As we settled into the routine of living, our house became ordinary. Our friends' new home was more spacious and had more conveniences. We began to think we, too, needed those things. But the more things we bought, the more things needed fixing. The bigger the house, the bigger and more expensive the problems and the more time and effort they consumed.

I admit I enjoyed fleeting moments of satisfaction from our home in Arizona, but it frustrated me more than it satisfied me. My garage door broke an average of twice a year. The hinges on the back gate fell off. Swarms of aphids set up housekeeping on our roses. Dust from the expansion of our family room kept circulating through the house after construction. My lawn was always dying, either because I gave it too much water or fertilizer or not enough. My sprinkling system broke

whenever a car pulled too close to the edge of the lawn. And I lost the war against weeds.

At one time, my dream was to own a home on a golf course. Norma and I finally realized that dream with the purchase of a beautiful house inside the grounds of a country club. The first morning I woke up to the sounds of a tractor mowing the green outside our house—at 5:00 in the morning. I didn't want to get up at 5:00 in the morning. Why couldn't they wait until 8:00 or so? And while the view was beautiful, when I would sit outside there were always people walking by, or workers manicuring the grass, or sprinklers running. I hated it!

In my travels across the country and overseas I've visited in many homes and found happy people and miserable people in both small apartments and spacious dwellings, which suggests to me that where we live has relatively little to do with our level of happiness.

In most marriages, one partner will be tight with the budget—he or she will be a saver—and the other will be a free spender, confident that somehow the funds needed to pay that latest credit card charge will appear miraculously before the bill arrives. It's a frequent source of tension in marriage. While this issue must be addressed, I'm talking about the underlying attitude both spouses have about money. The free spender is usually looking for happiness from what he or she spends. The saver is expecting security from the amount of money in bank accounts or mutual funds. Neither approach provides lasting energy, and certainly neither produces lasting joy.

I took a large cut in pay when I parted company with Bill, so I was thrilled when I had a business opportunity that promised to yield at least \$200,000 in the first year, and perhaps twice that amount the following year. Norma and I quickly thought of things we "needed"—a microwave, a new phone system, a sophisticated stereo system, a new washer and dryer. Our house suddenly seemed far too small and outdated. We drove around town and found a beautiful two-story home overlooking a lake. The price was only half of the "minimum" amount we thought I would earn. We began to figure ways to borrow the money for this house in anticipation of our windfall income.

Fortunately the bank never considered our loan request. The amount of money we actually received paid only for a grandfather clock we had bought in anticipation of moving into the new house. Every day that clock was a grim reminder that we could not move out of the home we no longer liked.

One of the toughest times in my life was the first time I achieved significant financial reward. After one failed attempt, I was involved in an incredibly successful infomercial. Four times a year for the next three years I received huge checks. The moment you come into a lot of money, your mind tricks you and your eyes grow larger and you see things you "need" that you didn't know you needed before. Some good friends of mine gave me this solid piece of advice: "Gary, don't live on this windfall. Live on what you earned before you made this income."

Money does not provide lasting fulfillment, nor is it the key to the door marked "The Overflowing Life." My personal observation of people, plus my own experience, has led me to conclude that there are very happy people who have no money, and very happy people

who have lots of money. And I know very unhappy people with no money, and very unhappy people with lots of money. Yet many of us live as though cars, campers, and boats bring lasting enjoyment to life.

We see this attitude displayed especially at Christmastime. Millions believe the holiday ad campaigns that tell us which things will bring happiness. But after all the gifts are opened, many of us slide straight into discouragement, even depression. Year after year the pattern repeats itself; new possessions cannot satisfy us for long.

Failing to find lasting joy in a house or other things, many people begin to look outside the home to a place where they can "have it all" while they "get away from it all." They plan a dream trip to Hawaii to enjoy the sun and surf or to Colorado to enjoy the snow and skiing. But all too often it's simply that—a dream.

Vacations can be enjoyable, but the possibilities for disaster are endless—bad weather, lost traveler's checks, a vehicle breakdown, canceled flights, stuffy motel rooms. Our first trip to Hawaii illustrated this beautifully.

I was scheduled to speak in a gorgeous hotel on the north side of Kauai. We looked forward to a week of sunbathing and sight-seeing on the island paradise. But it rained every day we were there. The travel brochure conveniently withheld information about the island's average rainfall, which, where we were staying, was reported to be 425 inches a year!

Things we least expect can ruin a vacation we've anticipated for months, or even years. Like the time we planned a special ski trip with our relatives. First, we lost the key to our shared apartment and nearly froze while we tried to find the manager. Then my niece got a severe nosebleed as we prepared to make our first run down the mountain. And on my second trip down the slope, the stomach flu attacked me unexpectedly. As I tried to hide in the woods to relieve my stomach cramps, I slipped and slid forty feet through the trees. My son, Greg, laughed uncontrollably while I spent thirty minutes trying to dig myself out of the snow and clean myself up.

Because I travel so much, people often tell me they envy me; they think traveling is exciting. What they do not realize is that traveling drains my battery. The headaches of arranging itineraries and purchasing tickets, rushing to make connections, experiencing yet another delayed flight and another round of lost luggage, added to fatigue from jet lag, uncomfortable beds, and flat pillows, drain away any joy that traveling might otherwise provide. If you enjoy your family, every day on the road is another day away from those you love the most. Most people who look to travel for fulfillment end up woefully disappointed.

Places, whether homes or vacation spots, are like a mirage. To a person thirsting for fulfillment, they look like a quenching pool of water. Yet once we reach them we find only sand—and the ten thousand other tourists who beat us to the spot!

Things, like people, cannot energize for long. If you think they will, just wait until something breaks—and see how much energy you have then. So what's left? Disillusioned by relationships or things, many people look for fulfillment in what they do.



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Being a Father Like THE FATHER

In his book, *When Your Child Wanders from God*, author Peter Lord makes an interesting observation about the way God models fathering for us. He discovered that in the first eight chapters of Romans there are 295 indicative mood verbs (statements of fact) and only one imperative verb (command). In the book of Ephesians he found 1101 indicatives as compared with 37 imperatives.

God, our Father, establishes certain definite facts before He issues commands. Before He tells us to do anything, He wants us to know some things and seeks to establish His relationship with us based on eternal truths about His character and His plan (Hosea 14:9; Romans 12:2). When we know God and are secure in the relationship, we know that we can unhesitatingly obey His commands.

This same principle carries over to our human fathering. Peter Lord says "if the imperatives (commands) are not preceded and exceeded by positive indicatives (statements of fact) they will produce adverse reactions in our children - reactions ranging from dislike to insecurity to doubt about the relationship to outright rebellion" (p. 120). Rules without relationship and reasoning lead to rebellion (Ephesians 6:4). As fathers, we must concentrate on relationship and heart to heart instruction before we lay down the rules. Then the loving correction will produce righteousness in our children (Heb 12:5-11).

Let's learn to father like Our Father!

http://www.biblicalcounselingcenter.org/Content/?topic_id=49&content_id=396

Spiritual Fathers

I remember a time in my life when I was desperate for guidance. I was in my twenties and my life wasn't looking so promising. I had no direction or hope. I had friends, but they were only slightly wiser than myself. Their advice was calming, but it didn't have the substance to propel me out of my circumstances. What I seriously needed was a "father," There were plenty of people willing to offer advice, but none who cared enough to invest time in me.

I'm not the only one who has needed a father. In fact, there is currently a great plea in our churches from young men needing spiritual direction for someone to be a father to

them. Friendships are readily available, but having a father is imperative for a strong church.

Paul is an example of what it takes to be a father. 1 Corinthians 4:14-17 indicates that being a father requires broad shoulders. As their spiritual father Paul implies that they grieved him when they chose other guides over him (v 15). Their disrespect is contrasted with his compassion for them. Not only did he care, he also responded appropriately as their father. He admonished (v14), encouraged (v 16), supplied, reminded, and taught them (v 17) in order to sanctify them.

As with Paul, disappointment is a potential consequence when caring for others, but the potential impact is worth the risks! Paul impacted Timothy so greatly that Timothy became a Pastor. His care ultimately brought rich dividends.

The church today is desperately in need of spiritual fathers. Any man can offer advice, but only a father cares enough to strengthen drooping hands and weak knees. The next generation will need the same thing Paul offered and that I needed. Will we as godly men seek out those desperate for guidance and care enough to invest in them as Paul passes the baton to us?

http://www.biblicalcounselingcenter.org/Content/?topic_id=49&content_id=606

The Subtle Side Of Anger

Sinful anger has many different faces. Rage is the most recognizable. A much more subtle version of sinful anger is impatience. When you are impatient you are unwilling to accept the imperfections of others (real or perceived) or the minor inconveniences of life in a fallen world. While you may not yell or throw something across the room, the moaning and the stern look on your face nevertheless reveal the condition of your heart.

If you are a believer, you can be patient because God commands it (1 Th 5:14; Eph 4:2). Although impatience is directed at other people or inconvenient situations, it is ultimately dissatisfaction with how God is working in your life.

One key to overcoming impatience is found by answering the questions: "What do I want that is more important than God's direction in my life?" Be honest about your answer. Talk with a fellow believer about it and prayerfully ask the Lord to help you respond in a way that honors Him.

http://www.biblicalcounselingcenter.org/Content/?topic_id=49&content_id=170

25 Ways to Provoke a Child to Anger (from *How to Help an Angry Child*, by Lou Priolo)

1. Lack of marital harmony

- Genesis 2:24 “For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

2. Establishing/maintaining a child-centered home

- Colossians 1:18 “He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.”

3. Modeling sinful anger

- Proverbs 22:24-25 “Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, Lest you learn his ways, And find a snare for yourself.”

4. Consistently disciplining in anger

- James 1:20 “For the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

5. Scolding

- Ephesians 4:29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

6. Being inconsistent with discipline

- Proverbs 13:24 “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”

7. Having double standards

- James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

8. Being legalistic (Making man-made rules equal to God’s law, or a test of spirituality)

- Colossians 2:20-22 “If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, ‘Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!’ (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using)-- in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?”

9. Not admitting when you are wrong

- Proverbs 28:13 “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

10. Constantly finding fault

- Matthew 7:5 “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

11. Parents reversing God given roles

- Ephesians 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.”

12. Not listening to the child’s opinion or side of the story

- Proverbs 18:13 “He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.”

13. Comparing children to others

- 2 Corinthians 10:12 “For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.”

14. Not having time to talk

- Ephesians 5:16 “Making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

15. Not praising the child

- Romans 13:7 “Render to all what is due them: . . . honor to whom honor.”

16. Failing to keep promises

- Matthew 5:33 “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.’”

17. Chastising him in front of others

- Matthew 18:15 “And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”

18. Giving too much freedom

- Proverbs 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

19. Not giving enough freedom

- Matthew 23:4 “And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.”

20. Making fun of the child

- Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind one to another.”

21. Abusing them physically

- James 1:20 “For the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

22. Calling them names

- Ephesians 4:29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

23. Having unrealistic expectations

- 2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

24. Showing favoritism toward one child over another

- James 2:9 “But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

25. Employing child-training methodologies that are inconsistent with God’s Word

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

(duplicate of action steps from earlier in this packet)

Application: Take the following steps:

- 1) Identify the specific ways you have been provoking your child to anger.

- 2) Confess these sins to God. Ask His forgiveness and the child’s forgiveness.

- 3) Develop a plan with your child’s assistance (if possible) to replace those sinful behaviors with biblical ones.

From FaithLafayette.org - <http://www.faithlafayette.org/95Files.aspx>

