

A Quiver of Arrows

A little test – what do you call:

- A group of birds? A flock.
- A group of quail? A bevy.
- A group of fish? A school.
- A group of dolphins? A pod.
- A group of children? On Fathers Day, a quiver full.

Ps 127:1-5 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.

2*It is* vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: *for* so he giveth his beloved sleep.

3Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward.

4As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth.

5Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

1. The attack on fathers.

It is unquestionable that there has been an attack on fathers. The most effective way to destroy homes is to attack fatherhood.

We focus on the effect of sin on all mankind but we should take note that Satan's attack was concurrently an attack on the home. God's judgment was formulated in terms of the family relationship.

Gen 3:16-19 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

18Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

We are especially sensitive to the attack on the home in our modern times.

In the document *Declaration of Feminism*, we find this:

"Marriage has existed for the benefit of men and has been a legally sanctioned method of control over women . . . the end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the liberation of women. Therefore, it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not to live individually with men ... we must work to destroy it [marriage]." In her speech in Houston, Texas, Gloria Steinem made this comment: ". . . for the sake of those who wish to live in equal partnership, we have to abolish and reform the institution of legal marriage."¹

The forces that are tearing at our society espouse a destruction of the home as it appears in the Bible:

We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.

We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking...²

Fathers are often presented as inept and out of touch in the media. Years ago you had "Father Knows Best," Now, the stereotypical father is Homer Simpson.

Walter Williams has pointed out that government programs started in 1960, as well intentioned as they were, have decimated the family structure, increasing fatherlessness in at least one demographic by 220%.³

Some fathering advocates would say that almost every social ill faced by America’s children is related to fatherlessness ...children from fatherless homes are more likely to be poor, become involved in drug and alcohol abuse, drop out of school, and suffer from health and emotional problems. Boys are more likely to become involved in crime, and girls are more likely to become pregnant

¹<https://books.google.com/books?id=P3l0DwAAQB-AJ&pg=PT108>

²<https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

³<https://www.creators.com/read/walter-williams/09/17/the-welfare-states-legacy>

as teens.⁴

2. Except the Lord build the house...

We must bring the Lord into our fatherhood.

Ps 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.

Ps 127:3 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward.

Being a Godly man is much more than all the hours spent in parenting classes, all the hours spent bringing home the bacon, all the hours spent in transporting and coaching and teaching. Doing all those things without God does nothing to prepare a child for a Godly life now and an eternal life to come.

Prov 20:6-7 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

7The just *man* walketh in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him.

One of the more disappointing conversations I have with people is when they talk about how important God, faith, the Bible, prayer, etc. is important to them while I am burdened to ask them if God is so important, what are they doing about Him? This is what it means that every man will proclaim his own goodness. There are so many who claim how important God is and they can't even find a book in the Bible, that is, if they can even find their Bible. It is hard to find someone who is actually faithful.

This is an oft quoted verse, but then look at the next verse. The just man, the man who has been made righteous by the blood of Christ, the faithful man will have integrity...and his children will be blessed after him! I think there are so many who have a worldly perception of what a successful house is and they try to live up to that image. Having all the trappings of a home without the Lord is vanity, it is empty, it is meaningless. Merely keeping the kids occupied till they take off is not a home.

3. The mighty man.

We often focus on the quiver full of arrows in vs. 4,5, but the quiver full of arrows says a lot more about the man who holds the quiver than the arrows *in* the quiver. Arrows are no more effective than the man who holds the bow.

Ps 127:4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are*

⁴<http://fathers.com/statistics-and-research/the-consequences-of-fatherlessness>

children of the youth.

- The archer must be strong – as arrows in the hand of a *mighty* man

Ps 37:23-24 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand.

- The archer has a target.

Ps 127:5 Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

What is your target as a father? Where are you aiming – toward a worldly goal? What are you preparing your children for? The happy man has a vision of his children's mission. Of all the things that we can try to provide for our children, riches are the least significant. Riches flee. Giving our children the ability to face the world and its challenges is the greatest thing we can do. And all those things are found in the Word of God.

Deut 6:6-9 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Giving them a knowledge and a faith in God for salvation will prepare them to charge the gates of hell.

Matt 16:16-18 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Prov 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

This passage is both a warning and instruction. If you let a child grow up in the way he wants to go, he will not depart from it. A corollary to that would be that the instruction that you give will also stay with the child.

We can train up a child to be turned into a straight arrow, or you can train him up to be a bonsai tree – interesting, but stunted and twisted.

I have known many parents who have sacrificed training in the Lord on the altar of sports, grades, popularity, entertainment, complacency, and laziness.

As arrows, they are to be projected, not collected. They are to be straitened, sharpened, and then shot out. I have to tell you that giving away a daughter at the marriage altar is a wonderful thing...if they have been trained and have selected a Godly man. If not, it can be as fearful as handing a Stradivarius violin to a gorilla. When you send out your son, he must be strengthened because he might be called upon to give his life for his country, his family, or his neighbor. If not, it would be a tragedy if he lost his life to a senseless lust ridden life of debauchery.

Ps 127:1-5

1. The attack on fathers. Gen 3:16-19
2. Except the Lord build the house... Ps 127:1, Ps 127:3, Prov 20:6-7
3. The mighty man. Ps 127:4, Ps 37:23-24, Ps 127:5, Deut 6:6-9, Matt 16:16-18, Prov 22:6