

# Father's Day - A Call for Fathers

## 1. God holds fathers especially accountable

As a class, God refers to "the fathers" in numerous places in the Bible. He does not speak to *fathers* in general in those places. He speaks about them as a position of responsibility in society. Although Godly women had a great impact on society, you don't see them regularly referred to as the mothers of the country. You *do* regularly see references to the men as being the fathers to the nation. This is no chauvinistic reference, but a reference to the accountability that men have before God for our homes and our country. God does not single women out for blame for what is going on in the world. It is the fathers who bear the burden of blame.

Deut 5:9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me,

The iniquity of the fathers (not the mothers) being visited unto the third and fourth generation means that the fathers choices and leadership will not be something that passes quickly – it lingers – and society will still be affected for a long time. The reason God holds men responsible stems from the Fall of Man.

1Tim 2:12-14 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Although Eve was also guilty, her

fall came by way of deception. Adam's sin was deliberate. That is why the Bible says:

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 5:17-18 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

This is why we recognize the importance of the virgin birth. By man sin is brought into the world, but Christ's Father was not a man, He was God.

This is important not just for any man's own children. His responsibility extends to all of society. From among many Biblical examples, we see how Solomon called for the chief of the fathers to be present for the spiritual duty to bring the ark of the covenant to the Temple.

2Chr 5:2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

Fatherhood is treated more as being fathers to all of society so that manhood for any man *is* fatherhood!

2. The battle fathers must join

People argue about the effect of fathers in the lives of mass shooters, but in one study 75% of homes had descriptions of fathers that read like this:

- Father beat his wife
- Father was alcoholic factory worker
- Parents lived in different states
- Father threatened to shoot him
- Broken home; lived with grandmother
- Mother married and divorced three times
- Parents separated after father threatened to shoot mother
- Father was violent alcoholic who cheated on his wife, fought with her, and abandoned the family
- Father re-entered son's life, was still alcoholic and used hard drugs
- Father blasted six pet cats with shotgun
- Father had affair
- Father in prison for ten years for armed rampage and taking hostages
- Contact with father ceased at age 4
- Parents never married
- Mother had multiple abusive relationships with men
- Father assaulted mother
- Father absent throughout his life
- Father drank
- Father killed himself in armed standoff with police
- Father imprisoned for beating and kidnapping a woman
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People act like deer staring in the headlights with a dazed look on their faces saying "Wha' *happened*?" What happened is a society that has increasingly and systematically forced Christianity into some basement corner or eradicated. The American Center for Law and Justice reports.<sup>1</sup>

Universities are engaging in anti-Christian discrimination at an alarming rate.

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One state college rejected a Christian student, saying the medical field "is not the place for religion."

In another of our cases, a college student was denied admission because he "brought up religion."

This isn't just outrageous; it's blatantly unconstitutional.

Right now we're in federal court in both cases. But disturbingly anti-Christian discrimination is growing nationwide.

One university student was expelled for her faith, another was told to defile the name of Jesus, and another was failed for refusing to agree that Christianity is false.

The philosophy of self-centeredness has been propped up and promoted and Christianity just gets in the way. This world is filled with lots of wishy-washy, vague talk of how we should all love each other – translation: don't ever say anything negative, only affirming of what anyone wants to do. This is not love. It is feeding peoples self centered pridefulness. Political correctness pushes this pride and that pride – this is just another way of pushing being self centered. Calling someone proud used to be considered something *negative*. Now, being proud is a badge of honor.

Prov 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

As a Christian, we should want to draw attention to Jesus Christ. We shouldn't celebrate pride. I used to say that pride has become an in-your-face-you-better-not-say-anything-negative thing. Now it is an in-you-and-your-kids-face-and-you-had-better-help-me-do-it-and-tell-me-I-am-good thing. There is a difference between pride and dignity. *Not* celebrating your pride does not mean that you are *ashamed*, or that you are *down trodden*. Not holding yourself with

dignity does.

Blasting filthy "music" out of a car window is not dignified. Walking around dressed for lustful attention is not dignified. Swag is not dignified. Such things are not an issue of sinful, self-centered pride.

The battle we must engage in, the battle we are accountable for, is not to just feed people's self centeredness through appeasement and fake love. It is to lead the way with the dignity that God has given us.

### 3. The battle fathers must win.

The battle we must win is a battle in our own heart over self.

Instead of being rebellious against God in indignity, instead of being rebellious against God and lifted up in pride and fear that someone is going to get in the way of having our own way, we need men who will rebel against rebellion.

True strength is not showing that we don't have to give in, but being able to stand and be counted for God. That is mere bullying. What takes true strength is emulating Jesus Christ:

Matt 5:38-39 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matt 5:40-41 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also.

41And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Matt 5:43-44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and

persecute you;

Matt 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What true manhood is not is swigging beer in front of a football game on TV but taking our children to church *and* teaching them at home.

Deut 6:5-14 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

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

7And 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.

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

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

10And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

11And houses full of all good *things*, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

13Thou shalt fear the LORD thy

God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

14Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you;

Psalms 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.

Notice that this passage is really directed toward fathers: the ones who build the house and watch over the city. Children are as arrows in the hand of a mighty man. What do you do with arrows, display them on a trophy wall? No, they are shot out at the enemy. As fathers, our houses and work are vain if we have not brought up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Manhood/Fatherhood is then reaching *beyond* our homes and impacting the world around us.

The gift we have for the fathers this year should be a small reminder that our hearts must be guarded for Christ.

Proverbs 6:20-21 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21Bind [lock] them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie [lock] them about thy neck.

2Corinthians 1:21-22 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ,

and hath anointed us, *is* God;  
22Who hath also sealed us [put a  
lock on us], and given the earnest  
of the Spirit in our hearts.

Prov 4:23 Keep thy heart with all  
diligence; for out of it *are* the  
issues of life.

1. God holds fathers especially  
accountable Deut 5:9, 1Tim 2:12-14,  
Rom 5:12,17-18, 1Cor 15:22, 2Chr  
5:2
2. The battle fathers must join Prov  
16:18
3. The battle fathers must win Matt  
5:38-44, 6:14-15, Deut 6:5-14, Ps  
127:1-5, Prov 6:20-21, 2Cor 1:21-22,  
Prov 4:23