

Godly Husbands & Fathers

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Introduction:

A. We live in a society that is very confused on what a real man is!

1. It pictures a real man as being successful in the business field, a climber of the corporate ladder, someone who is physically strong or athletic, someone who has money
2. God's view of a good husband and father is a far cry from the standard by which our world judges men! We must not allow society to shape and mold our thinking!

B. In the last lesson we noticed what a godly woman as a wife and mother looks like, tonight let's examine what a real man as a godly husband and father looks like:

1. God designed the home & marriage: For them to work right we must follow His plan!
2. The home and marriage relationship ought to be a place of safety, refuge, peace, joy, and fulfillment in a world where and at times when those things are missing!
3. In a society where godly men seem to be fading into a thing of the past, a role on the sitcoms of yester-year, we need real men to stand in the gap! (**Ezek. 22:30**)

I. First Of All, A Godly Husband's Response To His Wife:

A. A godly husband will have and show a deep rooted love toward his wife (Eph 5:25-29)

1. Husbands are to love their wives with the DEPTH of love Christ had for the church:
 - a. Christ's love for the church, for each one of us, was a self-sacrificial love! He held nothing back when it came to His love! (**John 15:13**)
 - b. Husbands should show the same! Too many marriages suffer because the husbands are self-serving → Wife's needs & desires are inconveniences!
 - c. A godly husband is not only willing to "give himself" in the ultimate sense if the situation deemed it... but is gives himself for her DAILY in self-sacrificial love!
2. Husbands are also to love their wives as they love their own bodies!
 - a. We'd probably look out for our own body... wouldn't intentionally harm it... we'd nourish and cherish our bodies – Always doing what's best for it
 - b. Paul says the same principle should apply for a husband's love toward his wife!
3. If a husband truly loves his wife he will not be bitter to her! (**Col. 3:19**)
 - a. Saying mean and hateful things to one's wife demonstrates a lack of love
 - b. Doing things just to spite ones wife, because you know it pushes her buttons, or because you want to make her mad shows a lack of love!
 - c. This is serious! It's a command from the Lord and thus a matter of eternity!
4. You may say, "But you don't know my wife!" God says, "Love her anyways!"
 - a. A husband never has the right to be disrespectful, hateful, or bitter to his wife!
 - b. Whenever a couple gets married a vow is made before the Lord in which easy party promises to love their spouse all the days of their life!
5. What does this love look like? It's what Paul describes... (**I Cor. 13:4-8a**)
 - a. Some husbands would claim they love their wife but their actions speak otherwise
 - b. As Paul describes how real love behaves, do you truly love your wife?

B. A godly husband will honor and respect his wife (I Peter 3:7)

1. Peter points out that a husband should dwell with his wife in several different ways:
 - a. A man might read this passage and see the sexual relationship... and that is very much a part of it... but Peter goes far beyond that!
 - b. He should dwell with her physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually
 - c. A godly husband is so much more than just a bodily presence in a home!
2. A godly husband will dwell with his wife with understanding!
 - a. A good husband will strive to understand his wife – God, who created the marriage relationship, is recognizing such an attitude is VITAL for a healthy marriage!
 - b. God created men & women different! Her needs, what drives her, & her emotions are wired very differently than ours! (**Illustration**: His needs/her needs)
 - c. One reason many marriages fail is because they are two people dwelling together

- under one roof, leading two separate lives, and don't know each others!
3. One reason a husband is to honor & respect his wife is because she's a weaker vessel:
 - a. Men need to treat women like princesses, putting them up on a pedestal w/honor!
 - b. **Illustration:** Difference between a plastic cup and a precious piece of china ware:
We treat it carefully, wrap it up, protect it, nurture it!
 - c. This doesn't mean she is less than her husband, not as smart, or not as spiritual, but she is weaker physically and emotionally!
 4. One of the greatest forms of honor & respect is shown by being there for her spiritually!
She needs you to be a "partner" with her in her walk with the Lord!
 5. How you treat your wife will have an impact on your soul and your salvation!
 - a. If a husband does not treat his wife properly, it will hinder his prayers! I don't know about you but I need my prayers! Without them I will bust Hell wide open!
 - b. Husbands... that woman next to you is not just your wife! She is her Father's daughter! If you mistreat her you will have to deal with her Father!

C. Finally, a godly husband will be faithful to his wife! (Prov. 5:15-19)

1. We know of way to many marriages & homes destroyed due to unfaithfulness!
 - a. It's starts out so seemingly harmless! A passing touch, moments spent consoling one another, doing things alone, hugs, complaining about current marriages
 - b. There's only one woman a godly man wants to go to, be satisfied by, to lust after, to chase and be chased by! His wife!
2. Notice too that husbands are told to "rejoice in the wife of his youth"
 - a. I have been told by older men with successful marriages that keeping the fire burning brightly is crucial for the marriage relationship to be healthy
 - b. It's the simple things that greatly impact a relationship – a short note, words of affirmation and love, a simple touch, etc.
 - c. I can't speak from personal experience on marriage, however, I know in dating us guys go to all lengths to impress and please a girl... why does it have to stop?
3. If your marriage has lost its fire, it's likely cause you quit feeding the flame! (III: **campfire**)

II. A Godly Husband And Father Is A Spiritual Leader In His Home!

A. Husbands are given the responsibility of leading & guiding the home:

1. This idea is not popular in parts of our society; however, God says that the job of leading and directing the home falls upon the shoulders of the man
2. Paul points out that there is an order of authority in the home! (Eph 5:23; I Cor. 11:3)
 - a. Its God, Christ, man, and woman → That's how God designed it! That's how we have to make our homes if they are to function correctly!
 - b. This doesn't mean that the man won't seek a woman's input or treat her opinions as second class → But the responsibility of directing the home is his!

B. They should lead their home by setting a solid spiritual example:

1. He doesn't lead by reigning down with an iron fist, lording his rule, or by treating his family as inferiors (disrespects verbally, abusive physically) – His leading is spiritual!
2. We see a wonderful example of man leading his home in Joshua (Josh. 24:15)
 - a. Why was Joshua such a great spiritual leader of God's people? He led his home!
 - b. This is why God requires it of elders that their children be faithful and that they rule their house well! It's necessary for them to lead God's people well!
 - c. It didn't matter which direction his society went! His family was going to serve God!
3. Husbands & fathers should instigate study of God's word and teach his family! (I Tim. 3:2)
 - a. Most of these characteristics should be every man's goal (not everyone chooses to marry or have children)! It's a picture of a sound Christian!
 - b. How often do you instigate a family Bible study and worship?
4. Husbands and father should strive to be a spiritual rock for his family to lean on!
 - a. It's a sad situation when a wife and children have a spiritual failure to look up to in a husband and father → It can cost the souls of the entire family!

- b. However, when a man decides to be strong and faithful to the Lord it only strengthens the relationship that exists between his family and the Lord
- c. Tough times will strike every family! As the leader the husband MUST have spiritual strength and stability to get the family through those circumstances!

C. They should be a leader in the home by raising their children in the Lord! (Eph. 6:4)

1. This is not saying that mothers do not play a large and vital role; however, because man is in the leadership position God gives him this special instruction
 - a. It's his responsibility to make sure they are raised with godly teaching & discipline
 - b. If he fails in his responsibility here, it is the Lord he'll have to answer to!
2. Society would say a good father is one who makes sure his children have money, who drives them to do well in school, or makes certain they become great athletes!
 - a. A father can basically fail in all of these areas and yet be the greatest of fathers!
 - b. Yet too often we lose focus of what really matters & emphasize the wrong priorities!
3. Looking at our society & even in some Christians we see some failures: *(from Jonathon Perz)*
 - a. Preoccupied! Too busy to bring up his children so he shirks his responsibility
 - b. Materialistic! Tries to buy children, replacing time with what he can buy for his kids
 - c. Selfish! Spends more time in hobbies than with his children
 - d. Negligent! Outright abandons children (infidelity, adultery, remarriages, etc)
 - e. Ungodly! Often giving his children an example of what NOT to do
 - f. Hypocritical! Tells children what they shouldn't do, but does it himself

III. Finally, A Godly Husband And Father Is A Provider For His Family!

A. When God created men and the family he designed with the man as the breadwinner!

1. After the fall in Eden, it was the man who was given this responsibility! **(Gen 3:17-19)**
 - a. Notice, God did not give these instructions to Eve! How was she to eat?
 - b. God designed the family and made the man, Adam, be the one who was intended to go out, kill something, and bring it home!
2. God takes very seriously the man who doesn't fulfill his role as the provider **(I Tim 5:8)**
 - a. Even non-believers know that they are supposed to provide for their family!
 - b. God looks upon a man who doesn't as being worse than an unbeliever! Knowing the end of unbeliever **(Rev. 21:8)**, how much worse of a position is a Christian man in who doesn't provide for his own family!
3. A girl puts a lot of faith and trust in a man when she gets married to him! She has to know that he will be there for her, protect her, and provide for her!

B. Husbands must not use this role a guise for a misdirected and unfocused life!

1. Sometimes much harm is done a family all in the name of trying to "provide a better environment for the wife and kids"
 - a. Some husbands will take on extra jobs, extra long hours, and added responsibility in order to bring home more money for the family
 - b. This often comes at the sacrifice of time and energy that his family needs!
 - c. What that family needs is not more money but a real father and husband!
2. In some cases he is really trying to better the family, but sometimes it's something else:
 - a. It may be a matter of his own personal pride → He may feel that how much physically his family has is a reflection of him and his ability! **(Prov. 16:18-19)**
 - b. It may be a a materialistic attitude! Elevating the physical and temporal over the things that really matter → Your home & walk with God! **(I John 2:15-17)**
3. We need to remember the old song, "Little is much if God is in it!" **(Prov. 15:16-17)**
 - a. Being a provider has little to do with the AMOUNT written on the pay check!
 - b. No one ever says on death bed, "I sure wish I had spend more time at the office"

Conclusion: Our society and local congregation need more men willing to stand up and set the example of a what a godly husband father looks like! Who will stand in the gap?