

## WHAT KIND OF FATHER ARE YOU? (Ephesians 6:1-3)

### I. **Bad examples of fathers we should avoid.**

- A. We don't need to pitch our tent towards Sodom like Lot (Genesis 13:9-13).
  - 1. Once he pitched his tent that way, it did not take long for him to be in the middle of Sodom (2 Peter 2:7-8).
  - 2. If it vexed a grown, righteous man, think what it did to his children.
  - 3. When you read Genesis 19, you see that some of his children stayed behind and lost their lives and souls.
  - 4. Fathers cannot let materialism influence their parenting.
    - a. A job in new town making more money may not be the best spiritual thing for your family.
    - b. A new job with more hours from home but more money may not be what is spiritually best.
  - 5. Fathers can encourage their children to do what Lot did by pointing them to jobs that bring in big money but won't help them be faithful to the Lord.
- B. We don't need to play favorites like Jacob did (Genesis 37:3).
  - 1. It is terrible for a father to treat one of his children better than the rest.
  - 2. The children see this and feel they aren't loved, and truly they are not, like the sibling receiving attention.
  - 3. I do know that children are different and you have to treat them differently in some regards.
    - a. Some can be spanked and it is effective while others it does no good.
    - b. Some can be praised a little and do great while others need constant encouragement.
  - 4. However, there is a difference in treating them differently because of the way they are bent and playing favorites.
  - 5. This is a recipe for trouble as Jacob later learned.
- C. We don't need to be permissive like Eli (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22).
  - 1. Eli just mildly rebuked them but never took any substantive steps to deal with them (1 Samuel 2:23-25).
  - 2. God found Eli's attitude inexcusable (1 Samuel 3:13).
  - 3. Eli was their father, priest and judge and used none of his positions to stop the sins of his sons.
  - 4. Our children need to hear us say no and mean it.
  - 5. Permissiveness never works in parenting (Proverbs 29:15, 17).
- D. We don't need to be dishonest like Achan (Joshua 7).
  - 1. Achan cost his family their lives because of dishonesty.
  - 2. There is no way to be a good father and be dishonest.
  - 3. When a son sees his dad using tools at home that came from work he is influenced.
  - 4. When children see their dad getting back more change than he

- 5. deserves and bragging about it they are influenced.
- 5. When every towel in the bathroom says "Holiday Inn" on it, they are influenced.
- E. Other types of fathers could be mentioned that we don't need.
  - 1. Like those who teach their children to cuss or to absent themselves from the services of the church.
  - 2. Like those who drink alcohol or smoke.
  - 3. These are not the type fathers America or the church needs.

## II. **Good examples of fathers we should imitate.**

- A. We do need to walk with God like Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5; Jude 14-15).
  - 1. The picture of Enoch is one that set the example for his children by walking with God by faith and not failing to stand for what was right.
  - 2. One of the greatest things we can give our children is the example of a father who walks with God, guided by His word and striving to walk according to it.
  - 3. How many of us fathers here today are setting the example of walking with God for our children?
  - 4. Our children desperately need to see this.
- B. We do need to have faith like Noah (Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5; Genesis 6:8-9).
  - 1. No other fathers were influenced by faith in God in Noah's day but Noah.
  - 2. In the midst of that sinful generation, Noah did not allow himself to be moved from his faith like other fathers did.
  - 3. Noah was a man of faith and action.
  - 4. Some criticize Noah for only saving eight souls.
    - a. It is a great mistake to criticize Noah.
    - b. Any father who can save himself and all of his immediate family should be praised.
  - 5. We need more fathers who are motivated by faith and have godly fear that leads them on the path of righteousness and are willing to lead their families on that same path.
- C. We do need to serve like Joshua (Joshua 24:14-15).
  - 1. If every father would serve God and his family like Joshua then the current direction of most families would be drastically different.
  - 2. What decisions have been made in our lives fathers, that lead us to serve God?
  - 3. Are we active in our role as spiritual leader of the home or passive?
  - 4. The words of Joshua should be ingrained on our hearts.
- D. We do need to be righteous like Zacharias (Luke 1:5-6).
  - 1. These words were written about Zacharias before he became a father.
  - 2. Men need to excel in keeping God's commandments if they want to excel at being a father.
  - 3. God chose a righteous father for John the Baptizer - is this not His

wish for our children?

4. As the father of your children, you are the only one on earth who can give them the blessing of a righteous father.

(Source of this outline unknown)