

Father's Bring up Your Children

Bill Scheidler

Introduction

“Fathers, Bring up Your Children” may sound like an unusual title.

We usually think of women as those who raise the children.

The Bible, however, challenges fathers in Ephesians 6:4.

And fathers, do not irritate your children, but bring them up with Christian discipline and instruction. –TCNT

You fathers, again, must not goad your children to resentment, but give them the instruction, and the correction, which belongs to a Christian upbringing. –New English

One of the big problems in our society today is the "renegade father" who is running away from his responsibility to be a father.

- As a result, children are growing up with serious resentments toward their fathers.
- As a result, children have a difficult time relating to God as their heavenly Father.
- As a result, society's portrayal of the father figure in the family is not at all flattering.

It has gone from a “Father Knows Best” version of dad...to a “Married With Children”, Al Bundy-type dad.

God's plan involves a restoration of fatherhood to its God-ordained place.

Malachi 4:4-6 prophesies this restoration before the Second Coming of Christ.

See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.

Fathers must take their rightful place if God's purposes are to be fulfilled in the earth.

For this to happen, every father must be ready to embrace a seven steps action plan.

1. Every father must change his attitude toward his parental duties.

Raising children is not women's work.

- The job was given to Adam first and Eve was given to Adam to help him (Genesis 1-3).
- The emphasis of biblical admonition is on the father. There are **five times as many passages** dealing with fathers as there are those dealing with mothers.

For too long men have absented themselves from child-rearing.

- This is evidenced by lack of involvement in nursery work, Children's Sunday school classes, PTA involvements, etc.
- Who reads to the children, disciplines them when needed, doctors them when sick, shuttles them to their activities, tucks them in at night, prays with them, takes them to the park and plays with them in the back yard?

It is time for fathers to get their hands dirty in the child-rearing process. You cannot expect to ignore your child when he is small and expect him to be your confidant when he is a teenager.

God commended Abraham and expressed confidence that he would raise his children in the proper way (Genesis 18:19).

2. Every father must understand the true value of children.

When it comes to values, it is extremely easy to give our major attention to minor matters. We can focus on possessions, careers, hobbies or other time consuming pursuits

a. The world's view of children:

- Children are in the way; they tie me down; they are a nuisance that keeps me from pursuing career goals.
- Children are a nice thing to experience once, but don't get carried away.
- Children are interruptions. The day care centers are full of interruptions.

b. God's view of children:

- The promise of many children was considered the greatest of blessings (Gen. 28:3).

May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples; and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your descendants with you...

- Children were seen to be a gracious gift from God (Gen. 33:5).

And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, “Who are these with you?” So he said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.”

- Children are a heritage from the Lord, a reward from the Lord (Ps. 127:3-5).

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;
They shall not be ashamed,
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.*

c. **Your view of children**

How do you value children?

- In relation to **your possessions**. Do your children know that you care for them more than your house, car, money, etc.?
- In relation to your **career**.

The fact is that children are the **only eternal things** that you possess.

- Every child born will never go out of existence.
- Your children are the only things that you can take with you when you die.

3. **Every father must make his family a priority in his life.**

People measure how much of a priority something is by certain specific acts.

a. **Time Spent**

b. **Money Spent (not quantity but comparatively)**

c. **Actions and Overall Treatment**

- Do their opinions count?
- Do you speak to them in sharp, negative ways?
- Do you give them dirty looks?
- Are you free with your affection? Do you tell them you love them?
- Do you treat them as a member of the body of Christ?
- Do you show an interest in their lives (sports, hobbies, friends, problems, etc.)?

4. Every father must understand his responsibility to his family (Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 127:3-5).

The man has a fourfold responsibility to his family:

a. Provision

Provision is more than just three square meals a day. Sometimes we think we have done our part as parents by feeding them when they are hungry, clothing them and getting them a college degree.

b. Protection

Protection is more than keeping them from physical harm in a well-protected house. It involves guarding our children from sin, strife, idleness, worldliness, dishonesty, hate, moral impurity and anything else that would cause them to become less than what God intended for them to be.

c. Training

Training involves bringing our children to maturity with all of the equipment that they need to be successful and to make wise decisions in life.

d. Guidance

Guidance involves aiming our children as arrows in the hands of a mighty man. This is not a passive involvement, but an active responsibility.

5. Every father must be a role model for his family to follow.

Your children need a hero. Kids are looking for a heroes today -- they are not found in sports, music and entertainment worlds.

a. The most important thing that parents can give to their children is an example to follow.

- This is what Jesus did for us (saved by his death and life).
- This is what pastors (shepherds) are to do for their people.
- This is what parents are to leave to their children.

b. The example of the father will confirm or negate any positive teaching the children will receive.

- Teachers can do their best to input good values, manners and character qualities, but if the example of the father is not there, it is usually a waste of time.
- The fact of the matter is children learn what they live! They will follow your example, not your advice.

- The sins of the fathers will often be communicated to the children, but (praise God) positive things will be communicated as well (Deuteronomy 5:9-10).

- Fathers who warn their children. . .
 - not to smoke,
 - not to drink,
 - not to develop bad habits,
 - not to watch certain TV programs,
 - not to get into debt,

. . . but who do these very things should not expect good results.

Learning From Living

*If a child lives with criticism
he learns to condemn;
If a child lives with hostility
he learns to fight;
If a child lives with ridicule
he learns to be shy;
If a child lives with shame
he learns to feel guilty.
BUT
If a child lives with tolerance
he learns to be patient;
If a child lives with encouragement
he learns confidence;
If a child lives with praise
he learns to appreciate;
If a child lives with fairness
he learns justice;
If a child lives with security
he learns to have faith;
If a child lives with approval
he learns to like himself;
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
he learns to find love in the world!*

--Dorothy Laws Holt

What is your child living with?

“What you do speaks so loud, I can’t hear what you are saying”

Words are established and confirmed by **deeds**.

6. Every father must realize the power he has to change the future.

- a. **The key to the future is the next generation.**
- b. **Fathers must get a vision for their children’s life and shoot them out as “the arrows in the hand of a mighty man.”**

7. Every father must accept his responsibility from God to be a godly father.

God holds the man accountable for the lives that He puts in his hands.

- As He did Moses (Exodus 4:24).
- As He did Eli (I Samuel 3:11, 13).

Close: Read Psalm 128

*Blessed is every one who fears the LORD,
Who walks in His ways.
When you eat the labor of your hands,
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
In the very heart of your house,
Your children like olive plants
All around your table.
Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you out of Zion,
And may you see the good of Jerusalem
All the days of your life.
Yes, may you see your children’s children.

Peace be upon Israel!*

Pray over fathers