

## **Encouragements and Exhortations for Christian Fathers**

Today, on Fathers Day, I would like to take a break from our usual exposition of Luke and turn our attention to the biblical role of the Father.

According to the Scriptures, the man is the head of the home.  
The man is accountable for the Spiritual welfare of his family.

This morning, we are talking about Biblical Fathers.

### **I. The Example of Abraham Genesis 18:19**

*For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

The context is important.

God going to judge Sodom and Gommorah for their sins.

Yet God had made a covenant with Abraham.

This verse alludes to that covenant and tells us **WHY** God had made this covenant.

As God goes to destroy the evil-doers, He stops and says, "But I will tell Abraham what I am about to do, because he is the one I have chosen to keep my ways and He is the one I have entered into covenant relationship with so that he will teach His children and his children's children to fear me, and there will be a people of God on the earth."

The reason I know him, is so that he will teach his children.

**Why did God call Abraham?**

**Why did God establish the Abrahamic covenant?**

So there would be a godly nation on earth.

So there would be an example of holiness.

So there would be a light in the midst of darkness.

So that eventually the Savior could come to a ready made people who have had the Scriptures, been taught the truth, and believed on God.

The vast majority of Israelites failed terribly in their covenant, **but** when Christ appeared, there was a remnant of god-fearers. By God's grace they comprised the **first church!**

YES, We need Godly men.

Our homes are crying for men who will take the lead.

" " " " " who will stand up for God.

Our churches need Godly men.

Our country needs Godly men.

We need families.

God has designed a child to be raised by his father and his mother.

Anything less is going to present a problem.

It's not an insurmountable problem for God.

*"I will be a father to the fatherless."*

That's His promise.

How much better it is, when in the home there is a mother and a father.

My generation has had a lot of problems – and is still having these problems.

We want BETTER for this next generation.

Let's tell them the truth on this father's day.

Young men, find the woman God would have you to be with and commit yourself to her all the days of your life.

Young women, find the guy God would have you to be with. If he's a jerk today, he will be a jerk when you're married. If you don't want to live with a jerk, DON'T MARRY HIM.

What we need are godly men who will stand in the gap. Men who will dare to turn the tide. Men who will be men in the midst of an age of ungodliness and selfishness.

The key to the home is THE MAN.

God made him the head of the family.

God gave him responsibilities as the head.

God made himself to be the pattern that godly men are to follow.

## **II. The Example of Christ Eph. 5:25-33**

Christ is the pattern of how the husband is to be the head of his home.

If a man desires to be a true man of God -

If he desires to be all he should be as a husband -

Study the character and nature of Christ, especially in regards to how Christ works and reacts toward his church.

The relationship of Christ to His Church is the God-given example of **how** a husband should relate to his wife.

### **1. Christ does not use the church for his own selfish ends.**

He's not interested in how the church can meet His needs.

He's not concerned with what the church can do for Him.

Christ willingly and freely gives to the church.

He's concerned for her needs.

He's ready to hear her requests.

He does everything He does with an eye to His church.

He gave his very life for the church.

A study of Christ's selfless work for His church is the greatest study a man can make in HOW TO BE A GODLY HUSBAND.

### **2. Christ is not a tyrant.**

He does not act like a harsh and cruel taskmaster. He doesn't demand impossibilities.

Pharaoh was a harsh and cruel taskmaster.

Pharaoh commanded the children of Israel to make bricks w/o straw.

Sometimes as husbands, we expect far too much from our wives.  
It's easy to be irritated with them when they do not perform as we hoped.  
To become cold or bitter when they do not do exactly what we  
desired.

**Follow the example of Christ.**

He's tender, He's loving.

When he asks for something to be done, he gives the strength to  
accomplish the task.

Godly husbands need to look for ways to help their wives be all they should  
be as wives and women of God.

**3. Christ Provides Real Leadership**

Christ does not leave the church to drift like a ship without a rudder.

He's a real leader.

He has given sound, reliable orders to the church.

The Word of God is the Book that reveals God and reveals to us how  
we must glorify God.

Everything we need to know about God and life are contained  
in the word of God.

How about you husbands?

Do you give wise counsel and advice to your wife?

Do you give her sound wisdom in dealing with the children?

Do you help her in her spiritual pilgrimage to the kingdom of God?

You might say, *"I'm inadequate to do these things."*

"How can I lead my wife?"

"I don't have enough wisdom."

If we really understand the seriousness of our responsibilities  
then we will cry out, WHO IS SUFFICIENT FOR THESE  
THINGS?

**IF ANY MAN LACK WISDOM - LET HIM ASK OF GOD**

If you're a Christian, you have the indwelling Holy Spirit.

He's your leader and guide.

It has been promised he will lead you in all truth.

You have the completed canon of Scripture.  
You need to be a student of the Word.

You have good churches and wise men of God and fellow believers that can be a help to you in these areas.

If you are a Christian you can be a godly husband.  
Christ has given you the example.  
Christ has given you the resources.

### **III. Follow the example of God in how He trains His children.**

Just like Christ is the example of a Christian Husband, God is the example of a Christian Father.

Psalms 103:13

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Isaiah 64:8

"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

**12 times in Matthew 6 alone**, Jesus refers to God as a Father to those that belong to Him.

The Bible tells us that God has a people that he calls HIS CHILDREN.  
All of them sinners, who have been convicted of their sin by the power of the Holy Ghost, and have fled to Jesus Christ alone for salvation make up that family.

God is continually training the members of his family.  
He never divorces his bride.  
He never disinherits his children.  
There is no condemnation to the children of God.  
But there is training and chastisement.

He knows our character  
our besetting sins  
our weaknesses  
our peculiar infirmities  
our special needs.

Just as a good father should know his children and adapt his training methods to their individual bent, God does the same.

**1. Remember** the things that God **withholds** from His children.

We all have experiences where we can think of something we **really** wanted and God would not let us have it, and now we are glad.

His withholding is a good grace, and there are times we must withhold what our children **think** is best, because we can see the harm in it. Again, they are a child. They have a foolish heart. They do not know what is best for themselves.

**2. Remember** how often God **leads** His people by ways which seem dark and mysterious, but we know are for our good.

Hymn 94 was a great comfort to me after the death of my firstborn son. I can think of no experience I have encountered that was MORE HORRIBLE NEVER WANT TO REPEAT IT

Yet I know good came from it.  
There is good that I can see and understand.  
There are 1000 goods I will never know.

We need to trust God, and we need to train our children to trust us. One of the tragedies of today is that we have to tell our children NOT TO TRUST ANYBODY.

Then the schools tell them not to even trust their own parents.  
Because of sin this has become necessary.  
We should prove ourselves trustworthy to our child  
They should be able to trust that

EVERYTHING WE DO  
EVERY ACTION WE TAKE  
EVERY DECISION WE MAKE

Is made with their good in mind. That is the way God deals with us.

Every true child of God knows that His God deals wisely with him. Our children should know the same.

### **3. Train him with the thought that his soul is the most important consideration.**

Your little ones are precious to you, but if you love them, you will think often of their souls.

What good would it do to give them the world's goods

What good would it do to give them a good education

What good would it do to see them become self-sufficient

IF - you neglect their soul?

Only the soul is eternal.

One day this earth will be gone, but their soul will live on either in Heaven or in Hell.

Every decision you make ought to revolve around the idea:

**How will this effect his soul?**

To do otherwise is to treat your child like an animal.

An animal doesn't have an eternal soul.

An animal gleans only from the happiness of this life.

An animal is happy to be fed, and sheltered and shown affection from time to time.

OUR CHILDREN DEMAND MORE THAN THAT.

They are eternal beings.

They are responsible to God.

Christian Fathers are responsible to train them that way.

**You** are responsible to train them, not the Sunday School or a Christian School. These other agencies can be helpful to you, but they must never take your responsibility from you.

SOME WOULD SAY: WELL AND GOOD PASTOR - BUT

Ministry and the Lord's work must come first before our children. We can't put anything ahead of God.

While it is true that we cannot make idols of our children. While it is true that we must love God supremely above our wife or children.

**TO FAIL TO BIBLICALLY TRAIN YOUR CHILD DISQUALIFIES YOU FOR SERVICE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

### **1 Timothy 3:1**

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work....(v. 4) One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

We can't be responsible for our children all their lives.

We aren't necessarily responsible for the sinful choices they make in their older years.

But, we are irresponsible if we haven't trained them properly.

The prime example in Scripture is the priest **Eli**.

He had two sons - Hopheni and Phineas.

These were wicked men who served as priests, but as the Scriptures plainly tell us, "They knew not the Lord."

They took advantage of the people of God.

They felt the people existed to serve them.

They stole the offerings.

They even committed immorality with the women on the premises of the tabernacle.



God told Samuel that He would judge Eli

**1 Samuel 3:13**

*"For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not."*

Did you notice the contrast from where we started.

**Abraham** – I have known him – in order that he may command his children after him to keep the way of the Lord...

**Eli** – I have told him – that I will judge his house... his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

I have known him.

I have told him.

He may command his children.

He knew his children's wickedness -- and restrained them not.

Abraham is the father of the blessed.

Eli's descendants were absolutely cut off from the Priesthood.

Abraham's sons did not always act wisely, but they were taught.

Eli's sons were largely untaught and not restrained.

That is the difference.

I hope you follow good role models for your vital work as a Father.

Abraham

Christ Himself

God as a Father

And do not follow the negative examples – such as Eli.

I speak as a Father.

None of us are sufficient for this great task.

That's why we need to spend PLENTY OF TIME on our knees, asking God for the strength that only He can give.

How about you, fathers, mothers, children.

Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

Are you trusting Him fully for forgiveness of sins?

You can't teach what you don't know.

Do you know Him?

PRAY

Hymn 626

Benediction: Genesis 18:19