

“Fundamental Facts for a Faithful Father”
Ephesians 6:1-3

Introduction: One of the most prominent figures in the Bible is that of a father. From his first mention in Genesis 2:24 (“*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*”) to the last reference in Revelation 14:1 (“*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads*”) a father is seen as the leading figure in our lives. Even the word “father” is presented 970 times in the King James Bible. With this much prominence, we should look at his role and importance in the life of individuals. A brief overview reveals:

1. The Pity of a Father Psalms 103:13- “*Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him*”
 - a. “pitieth” (Strong’s)- “to love, love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection, have compassion”
 - b. “pity” (Webster’s)- “In Scripture however, the word pity usually includes compassion accompanied with some act of charity or benevolence, and not simply a fellow feeling of distress.”
2. The Punishment of a Father Proverbs 3:12- “*For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth*”
 - a. “correcteth” (Strong’s)- “to correct, rebuke; to be chastened”
 - b. “correct” (Webster’s)- “Literally, set right, or made straight. Hence, right; conformable to truth, rectitude or propriety, or conformable to a just standard; not faulty; free from error.”
 - (1) Proverbs 13:24- “*He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes*”
 - (2) Proverbs 22:15- “*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him*”
 - (3) Proverbs 23:13- “*Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die*”
 - (4) Proverbs 23:14- “*Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell*”
 - (5) Proverbs 29:15- “*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame*”
 - (6) Proverbs 19:18- “*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying*”
 - (7) A man once said, “Everything in the American home is controlled by switches—except the children!”
3. The Preparations of a Father Proverbs 1:8- “*My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother*”

Body: It is this third point that we will focus our attention on in our study of the father. If a father is to be successful, then he must be wise in instructing those around him. He has contact, on a day-to-day basis, with two specific individuals. These are his companion

(his wife) and his children. If he is to be a faithful father, then he must obey a few fundamental facts in order to be triumphant.

- I. Concerning His Companion Matthew 19:6- *“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”*
 - A. He is to Lead His Companion Ephesians 5:23- *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body”*
 1. He is to Lead in the Faith Luke 1:5-13
 - a. God called Noah (not Mrs. Noah) to bring his family into the ark. Genesis 7:1
 - b. God called Abram (not Sarai) to leave and to dwell. Genesis 12:1
 - c. God held Abraham (not Sarah) responsible to command his household. Genesis 18:9
 - d. It was Joshua (not Mrs. Joshua) that made the declaration, “...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15
 - e. God called Joseph (not Mary) to go to Egypt and then back to Palestine. Matthew 2:13-21
 - f. The man is the head of the home while the woman is the heart of the home. One head without a heart is a dead corpse.
 2. He is to Lead in the Finances I Timothy 5:8- *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”*
II Thessalonians 3:10- *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat”*
 - B. He is to Love His Companion Ephesians 5:25- *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”*
 1. Ephesians 5:28- *“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself”*
 2. Ephesians 5:33- *“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband”*
 3. Colossians 3:19- *“Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them”*
 - C. He is to Leave for His Companion Genesis 2:24- *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”*
 1. He must be willing to give up the self-life for his wife.
 2. True love is sacrificial and produces an action (John 3:16). Jacob served 14 years for Rachael.
 - D. He is to Learn His Companion I Peter 3:7- *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered”*

- II. Concerning His Children Ephesians 6:4- *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”*
- A. He is to be Careful with His Children Ephesians 6:4- *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath...”*
Colossians 3:21- *“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged”*
1. The opposite of provoking and discouraging is encouraging. We will make our children either bitter or better.
 2. “Fathers provoke their children and discourage them by saying one thing and doing another—by always blaming and never praising, by being inconsistent and unfair in discipline, and by showing favoritism in the home, by making promises and not keeping them, and by making light of problems that, to the children, are very important.” (Warren Wiersbe)
- B. He is to be Cultivating His Children Ephesians 6:4- *“...but bring them up in the nurture...”*
1. “nurture” (Strong’s)- “the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body”
 2. “nurture” (Webster’s)- “That which promotes growth; education; instruction.”
 3. Notice the nurture in the life of Jesus. (Luke 2:52- *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”*)
- C. He is to be Cautioning His Children Ephesians 6:4- *“...and admonition of the Lord.”*
1. “admonition” (Strong’s)- “the mind, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining; a particular mode of thinking and judging, i.e. thoughts, feelings, purposes, desires”
 2. “admonition” (Webster’s)- “Gentle reproof; counseling against a fault; instruction in duties; caution; direction.”
 3. Proverbs 22:6- *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”*
 4. Proverbs 4:1- *“Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding”*
 5. Proverbs 6:20- *“My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother”*
 6. Proverbs 13:1- *“A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke”*
 7. Proverbs 15:5- *“A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent”*
 8. Proverbs 23:22- *“Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old”*

9. “When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” (Mark Twain)

Conclusion: It is important that we apply these principles in our lives if we are a father. Our goal should be to portray Christ to our companion and to present Christ to our children. A story was once told that sums up what our aim should be in duplicating a Christ-like spirit to those around us.

“A father once took his little boy on his lap and described what a Christian was. When he was through, the little boy asked a question that pierced his father’s heart: ‘Daddy, have I ever seen one?’ ”