



Biblical Manhood and Fatherhood: The Need of the Hour

Happy Father's Day!

June 19, 2016

Exhortation Concerning God's Love

*So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom 8:12-17)*

- Praise be to God for being “our” loving Father! May we “hallow” Thy great Name! (Matt 6:9)
- Praise be to Christ for shedding His blood that we might be adopted as sons and daughters of God! (Mark 14:24; Eph 2:12-16)
- Praise be to the Holy Spirit, who “quickened” us and gives us power to put the flesh to death! (1 Pet 3:18, KJV)

Indeed...

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart! Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away. There the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise. (Psalms 36:7-12)

And...

Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law, to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked. For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage; for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers? If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul. (Psalms 94:12-19)

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Text: Genesis 18:1-20 (Focus on verse 19. We'll back up next week to look at God's love in the Abrahamic Covenant)

- Friends, the need is great for men. True men. Where are they?
- Where are the men who **command** their families to keep the way of the Lord?
- Where are the men who declare like Joshua, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Josh 24:15)
- Where are the men who will lead “forth his trained men, born in his house...and” go in pursuit of relatives and friends taken captive by an enemy? (Gen 14:14-16)

- As the chaos and wickedness reign all around us, where are the men who will do what it takes to protect their wives and children as David did at Ziklag? (1 Sam 30)
- Where are the godly men who declare, “You have to come through me.”

Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. (Mat 12:29)

An important discussion, especially in 2016:

1. The Word of God unfolds the beauty of male **headship**.
2. Because of the rise of feminism (and sadly, some hurtful imbalances within the church as well), this truth has been infused with all sorts of baggage.
3. I believe, however, that God meant a man’s leadership to be a blessing! From the Garden of Eden, God established men and fathers to lead (in love)...to be priests and prophets, providers and protectors.

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Gen 2:22-23)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. (Eph 5:22-30)

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Pet 3:1-7)

4. A man’s ministry is a critical part of God’s plan to provide safety, security, **love** and instruction, both to His gathered church and His people within their families.
5. The Bible calls Abraham, Issac, and Jacob “patriarchs.”
See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! (Heb 7:4)

And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs. (Act 7:8)

6. Biblically speaking, *patriarchy* simply means “father-led.” God chose them to birth a positionally holy nation (Israel), through which would come His practically holy and **preeminent** Son!

7. And let us not forget, the Son himself **submits** to the Father! How beautiful is that? It is the Father's will that must be done (Matt 6:10; Jn 4:34)! *Extra Credit: Read Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17 to your family tonight.*
8. Indeed, from the great lineage lists in Scripture, through the Kings and Prophets, through the instructions on the leadership of the Church, the need for godly fathers is obvious. From who God is (Father), who Jesus is (a Son), who the Spirit is ("He" not an "it"), and based on the entire socio-economic and redemptive structure in Scripture, we declare that **fatherhood** is essential!
9. Our culture however, has other plans:

"Feminists must destroy patriarchy because it is rooted in God as Father - the ruler. They despise God the Father and His rule...and this is why we have the transgender madness. It's really not about that...it's about rejecting God as Father - a male who created male and female." - Scott Brown

Our Text:

1. First, I think it is ironic (if not out and out PROPHETIC), that God speaks of his choice, Abraham, and what He has called Abraham to do IN THE MIDST of His anger at and pending **judgment** of Sodom and Gomorrah.
2. In other words, God calls Abraham to father a nation of holy, God-fearing people, WHILE the most evil, heinous, iniquity abounds!
3. This entire narrative is set in the context of the LORD and two angels on their way to Sodom! **No excuses men!** Regardless of the sickness and sin around us, our job is clear:

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

4. No one should misconstrue God's intentions. *A man is never to be sinfully harsh or unbiblically domineering. Nor should he be violent with this wife and administer an inappropriate level of discipline to his children. Indeed, the qualifications for elders gives every man a wonderful list of what God requires:*

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, or if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (1 Tim 3:1-7)

5. But neither is a man to be **passive**. He is not to be spiritually wimpy. Nor is he to allow his household to get out of control as Eli did (1 Sam 2). Abraham was to "command" his children and household after him; every godly man, by God's grace, is to do the same.

More lessons from Gen 18:19: Look at how important this is!

Abraham wasn't given this authority for just any reason: it was essential to God's Covenant (Gen 12:1-3)! Abraham was to command his children and household:

1. After him. He was to set the **example**. The context shows Abraham as:
 - A man of hospitality, welcoming heaven's guests quickly (v1-8).
 - A man of humility and reverence, prostrating himself before the Lord (v2-3).

- A man of **faith** (Gen 17:15-27), believing the Lord for the son of promise and a great nation, even though Sarah would be 90 and he would be 100 when Isaac was born (Gen 17:17, 21:5).
 - A man of deep **love** and prayer. If you continue reading, Abraham cries out repeatedly for mercy upon Sodom (v22-33).
2. To keep the way of the Lord. This would bring God's covenantal blessings, as obedience always does!
 3. To righteousness. To actually be holy in practice.
 4. For the purpose of fulfilling God's covenant: which was not just to bring Israel into the *Land of Promises*, but was ultimately about the coming of a *Lord Preeminent: Jesus Christ*.

How the Lord loved Abraham! As one of our pastors remarked this week:

- He chose him out of all the world.
- He made him aware of His plans to render judgment.
- He showed him what would happen to nations/cities who turned their backs on Him. Oh, the need to "command" his children after him!

In other words, there were covenantal, multi-generational blessings that depended on Abraham being a good husband and father!

Friends, **THIS is the NEED of the HOUR!** We need MEN who aren't ashamed to be MEN! We need MEN who will teach and disciple their families...who will lovingly lead their wives...who will speak and declare in their homes what is good and God-honoring! We need MEN who will adjust their lives to Scripture and remain teachable and accountable to the local church!

Don't tell me that if, for example, 25 million men stood UP and ON God's Word things wouldn't change. Don't tell me that if these men took their families to church consistently and instructed them throughout the week, things wouldn't change. Don't tell me that if these men got a vision from God about their household discipleship, worship, prayer and productivity things wouldn't change. Don't tell me that if 25 million women came under such loving governing, things wouldn't change.

Men, to whom much is given, much is required (Lk 12:48). Repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ if you have not, and then, **let's go**.

Towards Christ, no turning back.

Amen.