



Four Cheers for Dad: The Blessings of Biblical Manhood!

Happy Father's Day! ☺

June 15, 2014

First a few thoughts:

1. Most of us are well versed on the impact of faithful fathers.
2. When a faithful father is present, **everything** changes! Wives and children are more secure, children develop spiritually and emotionally much better, and the chances of just about everything bad drops exponentially: gang participation, all types of abuse, poor grades, crime, drug use, gender confusion, poverty, and on and on.
3. Year after year I've mentioned one of the most earth-shattering stats I know of: "According to a report published by *The Baptist Press*, if a child is the first person in the household to become a Christian, there is a 3.5% probability everyone in the household will follow. If the mother is first, there is a 17% chance everyone else in the household will submit to Christ. Here's the clincher: If the father professes Christ first, there is a 93% probability that everyone else in the house will heed the Gospel call."
4. Here is another:
"In short, if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife's devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). If a father goes but irregularly to church, regardless of his wife's devotion, between a half and two-thirds of their offspring will find themselves coming to church regularly or occasionally.

A non-practicing mother with a regular father will see a minimum of two-thirds of her children ending up at church. In contrast, a non-practicing father with a regular mother will see two-thirds of his children never darken the church door. If his wife is similarly negligent that figure rises to 80 percent!"

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/thabitianyabwile/2010/12/16/fathers-and-church-attendance/>

5. This is one of the "creation order" blessings of biblical manhood and fatherhood: spiritual **influence**.
6. With so much riding of men and fathers, how about we take a moment to celebrate maybe? ☺
 - a. Thank you, Lord, for faithful men and dads!
 - b. Thank you, Lord, for young men being raised up to love you!
 - c. Thank you, Lord, for repentant men who make mistakes and take responsibility!
 - d. Thank you, Lord, for being a redeemer, the One who can take our mistakes and turn them around!
 - e. Thank you, Lord, for the church, where many of us have found fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters!

Four Texts to Illustrate Four Reasons for Four Cheers for Dad! ☺:

Several years ago, I heard Dr. Voddie Baucham characterize men as priests, prophets, providers, and protectors. I've held on to that characterization ever since!

The Blessings of Him being a Priest

- **1Co 14:33-37 ESV** – *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, (34) the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. (35) If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. (36) Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? (37) If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. (Emphasis mine)*
 1. Yikes! Why such an unpopular passage on a Father's Day? Well, it's not the women in ministry issues that I want to discuss. Look at the precious nature of the middle of verse 35: "...let them ask their husbands at home."
 2. So many people look at this verse as a negative thing. I don't believe God meant it that way. It was meant to be a **loving**, gentle, and family-strengthening aspect of a man's ministry.

3. This precious verse speaks to a man's role as **priest**, one who shepherds and cares for his family and others. It speaks to his gentle nature as a teacher of his wife and children in the home. It implies that he works to imitate Christ love for the church as he daily "washes her" with the Word of God. (Eph 5:26)
4. It speaks to him be a life-long learner of the Scriptures, an imparter of God's grace within his home, and a lover of the precepts and statutes of the Lord.
5. What the Psalmist wrote also reflects the heart of godly men: *"Psa 119:47-48 ESV for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. (48) I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes."*
6. As we've said again and again, God's plan for the transmission of the faith to the next generation is through the faithful instruction of **parents**. Fathers, in particular, have a critical role as we've said: *(Eph 6:4 ESV Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.)*
7. Many Christian men simple don't realize that God holds them responsible to disciple their families. This is a command a man cannot delegate. He is responsible for his home, and for what his children learn.
8. **How about a cheer for men who "get this" and despite their failures, are striving to uphold this mandate!**

The Blessings of Him being a Prophet

- *Psa 78:2-8 ESV – I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, (3) things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. (4) We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. (5) He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, (6) that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, (7) so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; (8) and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.*
 1. More than just priest, biblical manhood is also about being a **prophet**. This is to say he must "declare" what God has said and hold to it.
 2. Since he has been commanded, he must tell his children what God has done. He must not fail to restrain a blaspheming son as Eli did (1 Sam 3:13), but must teach them with an eye towards the generations to come!
 3. He must speak at times, as a prophet, focusing his families hope on God despite circumstances.
 4. He must fight against rebellion that we won't release a rebellious generation. He must prayerfully fight for his family's hearts and point those hearts toward Christ!
 5. **How about a cheer for a man unafraid to stand in the prophet's shoes? 😊**

The Blessings of Him being a Provider

- **1Ti 5:8 ESV** – *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
 1. From the Garden of Eden, man was given the responsibility to work and keep the ground (Gen 2:15). Work is NOT a result of the Fall; God's purpose for Adam in work was established prior to the Fall.
 2. From that time forward, men are called to **work** and provide.
 3. This isn't meant to disparage any hard working ladies or get into the details of modern family economics; it's just to declare God's clear commands for men, husbands, and fathers, and celebrate them!
 4. The text above means exactly what it says and is one of the blessings of biblical manhood. It reads harshly, but there is divine provision for families and children therein: A faithful man will work for his family, **lawfully** doing what he must to provide!
 5. **How about a cheer for hard-working men who accept their responsibilities to provide!**

The Blessings of Him being a Protector

- **Luk 11:21-22 ESV** - *When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; (22) but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.*
 1. Do you remember the story of David's families and those of his men being captured by the Amalekites at Ziklag? (1 Samuel 30)
 2. After weeping until they had no more strength to weep, here is what happened:
 - a. **1Sa 30:7-10 ESV** *And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. (8) And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue." (9) So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. (10) But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.*
 - b. **1Sa 30:16-19 ESV** *And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. (17) And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. (18) David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. (19) Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all.*
 3. A godly man is a protector! He will seek the Lord and obey. He will pursue enemies and overtake them. He will not surrender his family, his integrity, or his church without a **fight!**
 4. Oh, for men like this today! So often we cower in fear, afraid of words, afraid of accusations, afraid to take a stand for anything.
 5. But one of the blessings of biblical manhood is protection...to know that a man's strength will be used in **holiness** and honor.
 6. **How about a cheer for men who walk as protectors? 😊**

Final Thoughts:

Men and dads, you are needed. Your children need you...your wives, sisters, brothers, and mothers. The church needs you. The Lord has given you great responsibility. Sometimes you will fall short. Just repent and get back up, my brother, because you are needed anyway...flaws and all. 😊

**And just like we love and honor the ladies, we love and honor you too...all to the glory of Christ our King.
Amen.**