

The Spiritual Role of a Father

June 19, 2022

Proverbs 24:27, Various Proverbs

Why a Need to Preach about Biblical Manhood? 1) The church has often waived on the definition of Biblical manhood. 2) Total war of deception because of the issue of gender roles and equality. 3) Started with women's liberation movement.

7 Commands for Spiritual Fatherhood:

1) **Be A Man:** Pro. 24:27, To the young man: "house" doesn't describe a building, although it will be a part of what is built, it refers to family life. "Prepare your outside work," prepare before being married, that skill or trade which will prepare you for family life. "Make it fit for yourself in the field." "Make it fit," means to make it profitable and productive possibly over a number of seasons. Contrast with v30-34, the sluggard whose property is full of weeds and unkempt. A young man should be a producer before being a consumer.

Applicational Truths: 1) Being a father is easy, being a man after God's design is more difficult and requires hard work. 2) V27, requires work that turns a boy into a man. Not like Pro. 7:6-10, a man who is lead astray by an immoral woman, but one who is focused and building their life. 3) Young men need to challenge themselves. Do difficult things, make sacrifices. 4) Grandparents/parents of boys: don't rescue your boys from everything let them suffer and achieve. 4b) Grandparents/parents of girls: teach them to look for a man who has done something notable to have grown as a man.

2) **Be a Leader:** Pro. 1:8, What is Spiritual Leadership: 1) Own life built around following Christ at the very least by example. 2) The Word of God and knowledge of the Word of God are flowing into your home. 3) Prayer: Regular and normal part of family life.

There are two major challenges to spiritual leadership in the home: the sin of the husband (passivity, desire to follow) and the sin of the wife (aggressiveness, desire to lead). The example of a failing family is Pro. 19:13.

3) **Be a Shepherd:** Two ways to be a shepherd: training and discipline, Pro. 3:11. You train because of love for your children and others. "Reprove," is to make a case, to explain yourself, to be found right. Train others to be attentive, Pro. 4:1. Train by presenting a choice, Pro. 13:1 (be wise or be a fool).

What is the correct meaning of Pro. 22:6? To train them according to their nature? To teach them the ways of God? Primary meaning: is to train them at their level as they grow.

How long do we speak into our children's lives? Pro. 23:22, their whole lives.

Pro. 22:15, foolishness is the nature of children. The rod of correction is what will drive foolishness from them.

4) **Be a Provider:** Pro. 6:6-11, "sluggard," is one who hesitates, is passive, slow, idle, and distracted. Contrasted with Pro. 12:11, "one who tills the land," and "one who follows vain things." Pro. 16:26, one works to eat and provide for himself. 2 Thess. 3:10 & 1 Tim. 5:8, providing for your own is a man's responsibility.

3 Ways to Provide: 1) Pray for God's help. 2) Priority: providing for yourself is the top priority: Get to work. 3) Persevere: work hard, stick around longer than the next guy.

5) **Be an Achiever:** Pro. 17:6, the glory of children is their father. Children want to be like their fathers, do things that make your children proud. Outcome of achieving: Pro. 22:29. We serve those in authority over us, Pro. 27:18.

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- 6) **Be a Light:** Living life as a new covenant believer is one who brings the light of love, Matt. 5:16, Pro.17:9. Don't allow corrupt talk of others, Eph. 4:29. Pro. 17:17, love at all times. Pro. 19:22, have steadfast love and kindness for others – this love is covenant keeping love. Contrast with the one who is a liar and can't show love to anyone because he tries to pay lip service to everyone.
- 7) **Be a Worshipper:** Pro. 1:7, The central theme of Proverbs: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Worshippers: 1) **Pray** prayers of humility, thanksgiving, and for godly character. 2) They **read** and know the Word of God. 3) They **sing!** 4) They **gather meaningfully**: ready to be in the lives of others. 5) They **prepare to gather meaningfully**. Their lives show to their families they live with fear unto and to honor the Lord.

Why is the Role of a Father so Vital? Jesus was always the Son of God. God was always the Father, John 16:28, John 3:16-17. Our role as a father is our clearest way we reflect the image of God. Pro. 30:4, The nature of God is bound in their relationship of Father and Son. Our goal as men? Is to pray to be like our Heavenly Father.

Further Discussion and Application

Read Proverbs 22:29 & 27:18. How can we as men excel in our work and what kinds of effort do we need to put in to our labor to learn our trade and excel in it? How is a proper view of authority important to have success in life?

How does being a worshipper help us fulfill the other 6 areas of Biblical manhood? What confidence does the Word of God give men who put God first in their lives and desire to bring honor and glory to the Father and Son who saved them?

What do you pray for with regards to your work and labor? Do you feel that you earn enough and are able to save, give, spend, and share from what the Lord has provided to you? Do you desire to increase in responsibility or earnings so that you might expand on what you are able to do for your family and the kingdom of God? What changes would need to be made if you did? How could serving the Lord in His church help motivate you to consider others and be a godly man/woman who is growing and maturing in Christ?

How are you, as a man, doing things that leave a legacy for your children to follow? What do they admire about you? Ask them? What more would you want to leave them as a heritage of your life lived for the Lord?