Why Every Child Needs a Father

Selected Scriptures

Introduction:

** It is God's general plan that each child have a father who is committed to his God and his family*

Every child needs his/her father...

I. So that he/she may grow up seeing God's ideal structure & design for the family

Every child needs his/her father...

II. So that he/she may grow up having the domestic stability & security that a Godly father brings to a home

Every child needs his/her father...

III. So that he/she may grow up learning from the correction & discipline administered by a loving dad

Every child needs his/her father...

IV. So that he/she may grow up following the leadership & example modeled by a Christian father.

Every child needs his/her father...

V. So that he/she may grow up maturing from the impartation of Truth lived and taught by the father

Every child needs his/her father...

VI. So that he/she may grow up protected by the oversight & involvement of a father concerned about the well being of his children

Why Every Child Needs a Father

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Introduction: Illustration of the abundance of Mother's Day Cards sent from Prisons in May verses the absense of Father's day Cards purchased in June.

** It is God's general plan that each child have a father who is committed to his God and his family*

Every child needs his/her father...

I. So that he/she may grow up seeing <u>God's ideal structure & design for the family</u>

According to the Genesis account, the Lord God created the family structure. He created one wife for Adam and then blessed that union with children. This basic insitution of the home would serve as the prototype of all families to follow. All throughout the Bible the blessed pattern invovled a monogamous and heterosexual marriage and children under the oversight and authority of the parents.

Many children today have no such structure in their lives. In many cases Dad is either non-existent or non-involved in the children's lives. Single moms need added grace to try to fulfill both roles and to rear the children alone.

As the result of such absence of the father, many Christian children will have to find God's fatherhood in their lives to be an all-sufficient replacement for a missing Dad.
As the Scripture says: 2 Cor. 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
Ps 68:5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, *is* God in his holy habitation.

Many Christian children will have to learn from Bible precept as to how the ideal family is supposed to function, since they never had it displayed before their eyes in their own home.

The increasing femininity of boys and the rise of homosexuality in America may be in large measure attributed to the decrease of the male influence in their home life.

Among a multitude of other problems, same sex marriages (homosexual "marriages" or lesbian "marriages") do not provide the <u>balance</u> of physical and emotional strengths that a husband and wife bring to the family.

There is something benefitial and unique added to the life of a child when he/she sees a balance of feminine and masculine character traits. Growing up I've learned some things from my mother that I didn't learn from my dad and I've learned some things from by dad that I didn't learn from my mother.

Every child needs his/her father...

II. So that he/she may grow up having the domestic stability & security that a Godly father brings to a home

Children NEED Dads who have:

A. PERSONAL SALVATION

God's principles are for God's people.

Before anyone will have the motivation and ability to apply God's precepts for parenting, they need to have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

The sincere faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother eventually became his also (II Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15).

B. BIBLICAL CONVICTION

We live in a day of conflicting opinions regarding the rearing of children. The mass failure of the world's views is clearly evident by the product we see today in young people's lives.

Christian parents, however, must believe that God's Word, the Bible, is the sole authority on matters related to the family.

God's time-tested Word works!

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:16)

C. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Without realizing it, we all are influenced to one degree or another by the modern secular philosophies regarding parenting. Our attitudes and approach to discipline, instruction, the role of mother and father, etc., have been affected.

God warns us: *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* (Col. 2:8)

D. HOLY SPIRIT CONTROL

By the power of the flesh (the old nature), we are sure to fail (Rom. 7:18, 19). Without Christ's power, we *"can do nothing"* of any real, lasting, spiritual significance (Jn. 15:5).

Because the task is great and the time is short, mothers and fathers must parent under the control of the Holy Spirit. *"Be filled with the Spirit."* (Eph. 5:18)

Nine fruits of being Spirit-filled (Gal. 5:22)

1. "Love" - Agapao - a love that comes only from God.
   *An unconditional decision to meet needs.
   A parent filled with the Spirit has the power to be:
   --unselfish
   --give, not seek to get

2. "Joy" -
   A Spirit-filled parent can bring a jubilant Spirit into the home.
   Jesus
   Others
   You
   The Spirit can give joy even in the midst of trials (Jms. 1:2ff).

3. "Peace" -
   A Spirit-filled parent can bring a calmness into the home (in a society of turmoil and confusion).
   Worrying parents produce insecure children.
   Remember Phil. 4:7.

4. "Patience" -
   A cardinal virtue of Motherhood!
   --Patience not to blow up
   --Patience not to give up
   What do messy diapers, spilled milk, and disobedient children all have in common? They are all a test of your patience.

5. "Gentleness" -
   Lit. kindness.
   This describes a thoughtful Mom or Dad, who cares for his/her family.
   Their best interest is in mind.

6. "Goodness" -
   The parent who possesses this virtue does what is right, whether he/she feels like it or not.

7. "Faith" -
   EX: Hannah - I Sam. 1:9-18, 24-28. Hannah had faith to trust her son over to God.
   EX: Lois and Eunice (II Tim. 1:5), who passed their unhypocritical faith to Timothy.
   A parent who is filled with the Spirit sees beyond the temporal (this world).

8. "Meekness" -
   A gentleness, a soft manner of dealing with people.
   A Dad or Mom filled with the Spirit is not harsh.

9. "Self-control" -
   You have the ability to say NO to yourself.
   A Parent filled with the Spirit is not a slave to TV, food, pleasure, etc.

E. PERSONAL GODLINESS

From the moment children are born, they are a "walking camcorder." Their little minds photograph and store each sight and record each sound.

A Godly lifestyle is essential to rearing Godly children.
"More is caught than is taught."

Your children won't do what you say - they'll do what you do! They will follow your example.

To expect your children to be something you are not is inconsistent!

". . . be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12).

F. PARENTAL UNITY

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). Obviously not.

Christian parents must be in agreement as to: the roles of husband and wife; the goals for your children, and the how to's of child rearing.

Christian parents must be: *"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Eph. 4:3)

G. DEPENDENT FAITH

The outcome of our children ultimately will depend on the grace and mercy of God. We must work as if everything depended on us, and we must trust as if everything depended on God (indeed it does). Trust the living God to do what you cannot do. Only God can shape a person's heart and attitude.

Faith honors God and God honors faith (Heb. 11:1-6).

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5-6)

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Ps. 127:1)

God ordained that the Father be the breadwinner and earn the family's income and the Mother to give her time and attention to all domestic needs by being a homemaker.

Every child needs his/her father...

III. So that he/she may grow up learning from the correction & discipline administered by a loving dad

Prov. 13:24 - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Prov. 19:18 - "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

Prov. 23:13-14 - "Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Prov. 29:15, 17 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

(Cp. Prov. 20:30)

Why discipline?

1) Your child needs to learn the difference between right & wrong

Many are living in the depths of sin today because of parents that didn't care enough to say: "No!" and restrain their children by discipline. One girl gave this testimony: "I never knew how far I could go . . . because my parents never cared enough to discipline me. I figured that if it wasn't important to them, why should it be to important to me?" (Wiersbe, p. 155).

2) Your child needs to learn the price for sin

Physical discipline teaches that sin always has consequences. Sin will always sting! There is a price for sin. The child sees himself as a law-breaking sinner in need of God's grace.

The result of discipline is that the child will be brought back into line with what he should be.

Spanking is not punishment (to pay back), but discipline (to teach) right from wrong and to change attitude and action (Heb. 12)

Spanking is an at of love (Heb. 12:6; Prov. 13:24 - "Hateth" - not an emotion, but an action, a lack of positive action; "betimes" = early = 1) young in life (diligence from day 1); 2) early in the offense (right away in the offense).

Prov. 19:18 - "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

"Nurture . . . of the Lord" - we are to discipline our children the same way the Lord disciplines his children.

1) Out of love (for our own good)
2) Consistently
--Discipline must be fair and consistent. Someone once said: My father would use a cannon to kill a mosquito! I either get away with murder, or get blamed for everything" (Wiersbe, p. 155).
3) Effectively (you know it when God is dealing with you)

When to discipline?

Answer: For every act of rebellion against authority.

Examples of Rebellion:

1) Rebellious Attitude
When the child pouts or whines (throws fit).

2) Rebellious Action
a. When the child disobeys by omitting right action

When a child consistently says, "I forgot" - this shows he rebelled against putting an effort into learning the lesson.

When you give instruction - say what you mean, and mean what you say (Ezzo, p. 43). (Don't speak rashly, because you must hold them accountable for whatever you said)

If I ask my child to do something, and he does not respond (assuming he heard me), he/she is in sin. But if I call him twice, **I** am the one in sin! Why? By repeating my request, I am reinforcing and encouraging my child's disobedience. This is, in fact, training them in unrighteousness. (Ezzo, p. 43)

For obedience to be real obedience, it must be:

1. Immediate - Delay is disobedience. Children are to obey the first time you ask (immediately). The reason they don't respond until the fourth time is because you have trained (conditioned) them that they don't have to until then (that you aren't going to do anything about their disobedience until then).

After God teaches us something from His Word, what percent (%) of the time does God want immediate and complete obedience? 100%

As parents, if we expect less than 100%, we are teaching our children disobedience.

When we tell our children to be quiet, and they are quiet 80% of the time, we put up with it. What will you do when you tell your children, "Don't sleep with your girlfriend" and they only obey 80% of the time??

2. Without Question (can ask "What" to clarify command, but never "Why") We are to ask God "Why" about trials, but never about obedience. Sometimes God provides a reason, but we have no right to ask Why.

3. Without Complaint. Attitude is just as important as action. Grudging compliance reveals a heart that is not willing to obey.

4. Complete - Partial obedience is not obedience.

b. When the child disobeys by committing wrong action

When a child talks back, he has rebelled.

If a dad gives a command, and the child appeals to mom. That child has just undermined Dad's authority.

Another example of challenging authority: The reply, "Why can't I" or "Do I have to?"

Discipline is more than spanking.

Two parts to discipline (Prov. 29:15): "The Rod and Reproof" --
physical chastisement (negative)
verbal instruction (positive)

"Admonition" = lit. "to put into the mind" (not merely factual information, but right attitudes and principles of behavior)

Prov. 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is an axiomatic, eternal principle from God (NOTE: context describing causes and resultant effects)

"Train" = to begin, or initiate a young child in the right direction. To start out right.

Same word as when Solomon initiated/dedicated the newly-constructed Temple (I Ki. 8:63; II Chron. 7:5)

The word originally meant to "rub the palate" of a child with chewed dates to get it to acquire a taste for food; EX: midwives would rub palate with oil before child began to suck. The word means to make experienced or accustomed to what you

want (as a horse gets accustomed to being directed by a rope in its mouth) (BDB, p. 335)

If we get our children accustomed to what is right, they won't depart!

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IV. So that he/she may grow up following the leadership & example modeled by a Christian father.

(Eph. 5:23-24)

(ARE YOU LEADING YOUR FAMILY?)

The husband is the Head of the home (I Cor. 11:3).

Headship does not imply superiority of essence (any more than Christ is different in essence to God the Father), but only different in function.

There is order in the Trinity; (and male and female were created in God's image) so it should not be a surprise that there is order in the home.

ILLUS: How the Soviets at about the time of Sputnik succeeded in attaching a second head to a dog. A two-headed dog is unnatural. It's a monstrosity. So is a home with two heads!

Why are woman leading the family in many homes today? Because the husband is not man enough to do so. It takes work to lead, and men today are lazy, don't want to be bothered, want to live in self-pleasure, etc.

Husbands: You are to be the head! If you are not, then what you are is nothing but a head-ache!

A father must be a godly leader in the home to be qualified for the pastorate
(I Tim. 3; Tit. 1)

ILLUS: of a little boy trying to walk in Daddy's shoes.

As believers, we are to "walk as Christ walked" (I Jn. 2:6), and to "follow in His steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

God said, "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

God would never ask us to be something that He is not.

We should never be hypocrites and command something of our children that we don't do. If you do, your children may comply (they will listen to you) until they become teenagers.

Don't set double standards.

If you impress upon your sons the need for diligence, truthfulness, respect for the "golden rule" but are a quitter (jobs, serving Christ, etc.), boast of shady business conquest, or boast of your own getting even with others - don't be shocked at the children you produce!

Joshua didn't just say, "My house will serve the Lord." He didn't just send the wife and kids off to church. He said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15)

Dad, don't let Satan get a foothold in your life; if he does, he has the main entrance to the whole home!

Fundamental, eternal principle: Like produces like.

If you sow potatoes, you don't reap tomatoes.

What is there about you worth copying?

Whatever you do, will be exaggerated in your children.

"Like Father, like Son" is true.

However, your sons will not merely tend to copy your faults, but will magnify them!

Deut. 6:5 - Half-hearted devotion is unacceptable. Verse 6 - Love must come from the inner self

It is only after personally appropriating truth, after internalizing it ourselves , that we can teach our children.

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(Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4)

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ARE YOU TEACHING YOUR FAMILY? (Deut. 6:7)

Teaching children spiritual truth is primarily the father's responsibility."

"The Father to the children shall make known Thy truth." (Is. 28:19)

Abraham was responsible to instruct his children and his household" (Gen. 18:19)

Joshua claimed this responsibility (Josh. 24:15)

God held Eli responsible for failing to instruct and correct his sons (I Sam. 3:f13).

In the N.T. the command is to Fathers to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4; cp. I thes. 2:11)

Teaching is to be:

1) Repetitious - "Diligently" = from a word which describes the activity of sharpening a metal object by repeated strokes of a sanding block. (ILLUS: How God must teach us over and over)

2) Specific content - "Them" = the "words" of verse 6. The word, law, or commands of God.

3) Informal - weave teaching into your normal everyday routine.
   a. Simultaneous with other activity (when - sitting, walking, lying down)

b. Different locations - house road, bed (ILLUS: how God teaches us not only at church [formally] but also during work, home, etc.)

4) Continual -
   a. At different times (day & night activities)
   b. All the time (from morning to morning)

While a continual, informal teaching of our children is the real key to their spiritual knowledge and growth, a specific time set apart each day is also vitally important.

A "Family Time"; "Family Devotions"; or "Family Altar" should be short, serious, and interesting.

ILLUS: A child said, "Dad, what is God like?" The reply: "I don't know - go ask your mother."

No dad knows all the answers, but he should know the elementary doctrines of the Christian faith - for we are responsible to God to teach our children!

Our children are like wet cement - they take the impression of whatever you do to them.

Our children are like unhardened clay - pliable to the way you shape them.

Our children are like a tender twig - that we want to bend toward a certain direction. The twig "is to be bent with caution, not broken in the efforts of a rude and hasty zeal" (Eadie, p. 262).

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Get involved in your children's lives (play with them; have fun together)

This oversight involves all areas of the Child's life:

Recreational choices:
What is watched on TV and when
What is listened to on the Radio or CD player
What the standards of conduct are for the home

Spiritual Service:
Bring you kids to church
Serve with them

Matrimony Preparation:

I Corinthians 7:36-39; Genesis 24

This whole chapter of I Cor. 7 answers the question: "Should I marry or not?"

Verses 25-38 deal specifically with virgins and whether or not they should remain unmarried, especially in light of the *"present distress"* (v. 26) they were facing.

V. 36

A general interpretation of verses 36-38:

Who is the ***"man"*** spoken about in verses 36-38?

Some say Paul is addressing the virgin's fiance, who is engaged (betrothed) to her (NIV interpretation).

A better view is that Paul is addressing the father of a virgin daughter (KJV, NASV).

Reasons:

1) The one referred to has authority over the virgin (a fiance has none).

2) The third person plural imperative ***"Let them marry"*** indicates that Paul is speaking to someone outside of the couple.

3) ***"Giveth . . . in marriage"*** - (*gamizon)* - pres. act. participle. "Verbs with this ending are generally causative ('to give in marriage')." (Reinecker, p. 410).

4) The widow can marry *"whom she will"* (v. 39); this is an evident contrast to the will of her father (v. 37), who arranged her first marriage.

5) The custom of Paul's day was arranged marriages. The girl was under the authority of her dad until he gave her to the authority of another man in marriage. Even today we have a trace of this custom in America, as the preacher says at the wedding altar, "Who gives this woman to be married to this man?" "I do" or "Her mother and I" Most marriage sin foreign countries today are either arranged or have a heavy parental involvement.

"In Jewish culture, parents, and particularly fathers, had long had a dominant role in deciding whom their children would marry. The same general custom prevailed in many ancient societies, including that of Rome. Some historians credit Rome's decline in part to the weakening of the family caused by loss of parental control in arranging marriages. In New Testament times the arranged marriage, especially for young people, was the norm." (MacArthur, p. 185).

"In light of the extant teaching about the advantages of singleness, some of the fathers of Corinth apparently had dedicated their young daughters to the Lord as permanent virgins" (MacArthur, p. 185) (EX: Jepthah's daughter)

If the father, for whatever reason, senses that he is not doing what is best in her self interest by keeping his daughter unmarried, he should give her away in holy matrimony.

V. 37
Paul basically says that a father who has decided (for whatever reasons) that he should keep his daughter unmarried *"doeth well."*
V. 38
Giving a daughter in marriage in not a difference of right or wrong, but a difference of "good" (*"well")* and "better." In some situations, it is *"better"* not to marry.

Teach your children about proper courtship:

What procedure should Christian girls follow in a courtship relationship?

1) Remember you are under the authority of your father until you marry (I Cor. 7:36-38).

2) Before starting to court a young man, meet with your father (whether or not he is a Christian) and share with him your goals for marriage: that yours will be the kind of marriage God wants, and thus be the happiest possible.

3) Agree that any boy who wants to court you must first ask your father for permission.

a) It makes the boy appreciate you more because what is easily gotten is not usually appreciated.

b) It decreases the temptation of the boy to mistreat you. If he thinks you are completely on your own, it increases the risk that he will try something.

c) It proves to the boy that your father loves you.

d) It gives your father a chance to discern the boy's intentions. A woman is more affected by actions than by motives, but a man discerns first the motive.

e) It places the boy under your father's counsel, which is exactly where he should be if the relationship grows into marriage.

4) Agree that anytime a fellow starts talking to you about marriage you will say, *"If you are thinking about marriage, you had better talk to my father."* This is tremendously important because so often talk about marriage is just camouflaged lust.