

# Father's Day

## Fathers Are Important

### Deuteronomy 6:20-25; 1 Peter 3:15

#### Deuteronomy 6:20-25

**20** And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?

**21** Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

**22** And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

**23** And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

**24** And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

**25** And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

#### 1 Peter 3:15

**15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

This is a message I found handwritten on paper that my Dad preached, and I felt impressed to preach this in honor of my father.

Dad's outlines were anything from handwritten notes on one side of a page (like this one) to very

involved outlines. This one, and ones like it that he preached, were mostly Scripture.

## **I. A FATHER IS TO TEACH PRINCIPLE DUTIES TO HIS CHILDREN**

One of the greatest problems we face in America today, and one of the most important truths that can be stated, is that the home is not right – and within that truth it can be shown, without much debate, that a home, either without a father or one with a father of no value, has a direct impact on the health of a nation.

There are numerous duties found in Scripture that are incumbent on the father to either do himself or make sure is done according to truth and righteousness.

### **A. Teach – Deut. 6:7**

Deuteronomy 6:6–7

<sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

<sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

1. The words “And thou shalt teach them diligently” come from a single word in Hebrew (וְשִׁנְנָתָם). The root of the word (שָׁנַן) is one that means to sharpen.
2. Moses was telling the children of Israel, as they prepared to go into the Promised Land, that they were to make sure they were diligent in “sharpening” the

knowledge their children had of the things of the Bible so that they would be able to follow the Lord the way He intended. That burden is on the father – both to do himself personally, as well as making sure that the principles of truth and righteousness are taught in every area of a child’s life.

## **B. Train – Prov. 22.:6**

Proverbs 22:6

<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

1. “Train up” is a command – something Solomon taught his son (Rehoboam in this context) that he was to continue to teach his children, and them their children, and so on.
2. To “train up” is from a word (תָּנַחַךְ) that means to make narrow, as the narrow opening of the mouth, and, in the sense used here, it means to direct the teaching of our children in such a narrow way as to make sure their focus stays upon that which they are taught. The first focus should be on the Bible and spiritual things, and then all other things taught is to be focused from there. These things are seen done at the earliest stages in their development and as they grow in understanding.
3. “In the way he should go” – “in,” or “according to” the way (literally, “his way”), the path, he should be living, the specific path for him (as opposed to using

this in a general sense) – this speaks to:

- a) His manners and habits;
  - b) The trade or occupation he was taught as a child – especially the boys. For the girls, it is the truth their mother taught them about being a lady, a mother (if God gave them that place in life), a good, godly person.
4. “When he is old, he will not depart from it” – “So he will not, when he becomes old, depart from it” (K&D).
- a) Things taught a child will stay with him his entire life – both good and bad.
  - b) Considering the practical truth of Proverbs, and the culture of the times this was written, this is speaking of both spiritual and practical teaching. In Bible times, when a child was raised (a boy specifically – the word for “child” is masculine in this verse) he was taught a trade – usually the trade of the father (Jesus was a carpenter, the Apostle Paul was tentmaker) but when they got older and chose a different course for their life, as some did (Paul became a lawyer – a Pharisee), what they were taught as a child was always there for them to “fall back on,” if need be.

### **C. Nurture – Eph. 6:4**

Ephesians 6:4

<sup>4</sup> And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

1. To “nurture,” according to Webster’s 1828 dictionary, means (as a noun) that which

nourishes; food; diet. That which promotes growth; education; instruction.

2. The word is most often translated, in its various forms, by the principle of chastening. To nurture a child is to provide that child with all it needs to grow, both physically, mentally, and spiritually – and part of that “nurturing” is discipline.

#### **D. Control – 1 Tim. 3:4**

1 Timothy 3:4

<sup>4</sup> One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

1. Although speaking of the pastor specifically in this text, this is a principle that can be applied to all fathers.
2. “In subjection” – simply, obedient. “With all gravity” – to be instilled with a sense of honesty and purity.

#### **E. Love – Hebrews 10:24**

Hebrews 10:24

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

1. This text may not be specifically given to fathers, but if we consider the rest of Scripture in relation to this one, it can be applied that one of the principle duties of the father is to teach their children to love others.
2. If we want to end the division in society, and the divisions that happen in homes,

and in the church, then we, as fathers, need to teach our children to love.

## **II. A FATHER IS TO CORRECT HIS CHILDREN – HEB. 12:6, 9**

Hebrews 12:6

<sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:9

<sup>9</sup> Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

- A. By this is meant, not just to verbally correct a child when he says something that is not right, or true, but to discipline his children when they do something wrong.***
  
- B. A direct correlation can be drawn from the time we took discipline out of the schools, and then out of our homes (by making it actually a crime in some place in this country to use corporal discipline on our own children), to the chaos we have in society right now. Even the divide in politics can be traced, in part, to that very dynamic.***
  
- C. The Bible (specifically, the book of Proverbs as it relates to corporal punishment – several other passages reference it in the word “chasten”) has a good deal to say on the subject, and since, as a New Testament Church, our sole rule of faith and practice is to come***

***from them, it is critical we not only know what the Bible says on the matter, but follow what the Bible says on the matter.***

Proverbs 13:24

<sup>24</sup> He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 19:18

<sup>18</sup> Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 22:15

<sup>15</sup> Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13

<sup>13</sup> Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Proverbs 29:15

<sup>15</sup> The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

### **III. A FATHER WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD FOR HOW HE REARED HIS CHILDREN**

***A. This is seen by illustration in the Bible – by examples of fathers showing no restraint.***

1 Samuel 8:3 (speaking of Samuel)

<sup>3</sup> And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

1 Kings 1:6 (speaking of David)

<sup>6</sup> And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare

him after Absalom.

## ***B. And by illustrations of a father's evil influence.***

### **1 Kings 22:52**

**52** And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:

### **2 Chronicles 22:3**

**3** He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.

### **Jeremiah 9:14**

**14** But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:

### **Amos 2:4**

**4** Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

Conclusion: On this Father's Day, consider the importance of fathers. We have all been influenced by our father – good or bad – even if they weren't involved in your life, their very absence influences, even now.