

Responsible Fatherhood

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

- Introduction:
1. Ephesians 6:1-2 says as much about parents as it does children.
 - a. Children are commanded to obey.
 - b. However, if a child is to honor his parents – a responsibility falls upon the parents to conduct themselves in such a way to enable the child to honor and respect them.
 2. Fathers have been honored by God when God gave them the position of leadership in the home.
 3. As leaders of the home, we have the potential to influence generations to come; even long after we are gone.
 4. Let's spend a few minutes examining the biblical role of fathers and take a look at a couple biblical fathers.

I. Biblical Fatherhood

- A. A father must first be a good husband (Ephesians 5:25-33).
 1. Commitment is a must (1 Peter 4:8). [1st year of marriage; Dobson ill.]
 2. Honor your wife (1 Peter 3:7; Eph. 5:33).
 3. Keep courtship alive (Ephesians 5:29).
 4. Practice forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32).
- B. A father must be the head of his home (Ephesians 5:23).
 1. Headship is not so much about power, but about responsibility.
 2. Biblical rationale for headship.
 - a. The principle of firstborn (1 Tim. 2:13; Col. 1:15-18).
 - b. The principle of source (1 Cor. 11:8; Col. 1:16).
 - c. The principle of naming (Gen. 2:20-23).
 3. We are held accountable for the headship and leadership we provide for our families (Genesis 2:9; Romans 5:12).
- C. A father must be a provider for his home (1 Timothy 5:8).
 1. If one who will not provide for the physical well-being of his family is worse than an infidel, then what is one who will not provide for the spiritual well-being of his family.
 2. (Ephesians 6:4) "Admonition of the Lord"

II Biblical Portraits Of Fathers

- A. Abraham.
 1. (Genesis 18:17-19).
 2. God had confidence that Abraham could command his children.
 3. (Joshua 24:15).
- B. Job.
 1. Job was the spiritual leader for his family (Job 1:5).
 2. Job had a positive outlook on life (Job 1:21; Philippians 4:11; Col. 3:21).
 3. Job was a humble man (Job 42:1-6).

- Conclusion:
1. May God help us to be the kind of fathers our children, our churches, and our nation needs.
 2. If you find yourself deficient, simply resolve today to begin fulfilling your God given role as a father.