

Shepherd the House: You Can't Lead If You Can't Be Led

Text: 2 Peter 1:6

“...add to your knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, steadfastness...”

INTRO: THE UNSPOKEN FAILURE OF FATHERS

Here's the problem that nobody wants to say out loud on Father's Day:

Here's what doesn't get preached at men's conferences or BBQs:

The most dangerous fathers in the church today aren't the ones who left.
They're the ones who stayed—but never submitted.

They show up, shake hands, and smile wide.

But behind the scenes, they rule their home like a CEO, not a shepherd.

They lead without listening.

They protect without pastoring.

They demand submission without ever offering it to God.

Most homes are not suffering because Dad is absent.

They're suffering because Dad is *unsubmitted*.

You're physically there, emotionally disengaged, spiritually quiet.

You provide income—but you don't provide *intercession*.

You pay the bills—but you don't *pastor the home*.

And let me say this clearly:

A man or woman who cannot be shepherded / pastored will sabotage his or her own household.

Proverbs 12:15:

“Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.”

Ephesians 5:23-25:

*“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church...
Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”*

We've misinterpreted "headship" as dictatorship.

But Jesus didn't lead the church by shouting louder—He led by **laying Himself down**.

Let's call it what it is:

You're not leading your family in the way of Christ. You're managing your house like a middle manager at a job you don't even love.

And if that stings—it's supposed to.

Because **our culture is falling apart at the seams, and the rot started at the dinner table**.

It started when fathers outsourced the spiritual direction of their kids to YouTube, the youth group, and "mom's department."

It started when we stopped building **altars in our homes** and started building *platforms for our egos*.

We have too many men who want to be king of the castle, but won't kneel before the King of Kings.

Men want to **rule**—but they don't want to **repent**.

They want **submission**—from others—but **not** for themselves.

They want **honor**—but haven't **earned** trust.

They want **influence**—but won't walk in integrity.

And it's not because you're not smart. Not because you're not capable.

It's because **you've been taught a lie: that leadership means control, not surrender**.

But hear me—**a man who can't be pastored will never lead a house that is spiritually healthy**.

Because the ceiling of your home is your submission to Christ.

1. SELF-CONTROL ISN'T JUST MORALITY—IT'S SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

We love to flex on self-control like it's just about porn habits, sugar addiction, or gym discipline.

That's surface-level.

It's *safe masculinity*.

We've reduced self-control to a checklist of private disciplines:

- Avoid lust.
- Avoid sugar.
- Avoid rage.
- Avoid carbs.

But real self-control is **relational submission**.

It's your ability to let someone else check your blind spots.

Hebrews 13:17:

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account..."

Proverbs 27:17:

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

We quote that one a lot—but forget that *iron sparks when it collides*.

Real sharpening isn't just encouragement—it's confrontation.

You need a man in your life who loves Jesus *and* will get in your face.

Because your authority as a father is only as strong as your willingness to be under authority.

James 4:7:

"So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Submission precedes victory.

Real self-control isn't just about what you do in private. It's about who you allow to speak into your life in public.

Hebrews 13:17 — "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls..."

You want to know why many men are spiritually dead inside?

Because **nobody is watching their soul**.

You're a spiritual orphan, posing as a father.

You resist authority.

You ghost correction.

You avoid transparency.

You've spiritualized rebellion.
You've baptized independence.
You've mistaken pride for discernment.

Let me give it to you like this:

**If you don't have a pastor, you don't have covering.
If you don't have covering, you don't have alignment.
And if you're out of alignment, don't expect your house to be in order.**

Submission is not weakness.
It's the foundation of real strength.

You can deadlift 400 pounds and still collapse under the weight of a marriage you never spiritually led.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY ISN'T ABUSE—IT'S INSURANCE AGAINST FAILURE

Let's clear the fog.

Accountability is not legalism. It's leadership insurance.

But we've raised a generation of men who think being told "no" is spiritual trauma.
We've made accountability a trigger word.

We confuse **correction** with **control**.
If a pastor rebukes you, you call it spiritual abuse.
If a brother calls you out, you call it judgmental.
But the Bible calls it *wisdom*.

Proverbs 9:8-9:

"So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser."

2 Samuel 12:7, 13:

"Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'... David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.'"

So here's the new gospel of masculinity:

- Don't question me.
- Don't check on me.
- Don't challenge me.

And yet we wonder why so many men blow up their families, deconstruct their faith, or disappear from the church.

You can't be unaccountable and think your family is spiritually secure. That's delusion.

Accountability is what saved David.
Not his talent. Not his songs. Not even his own discernment.

It was a prophet who had the guts to say:

"You are the man." (2 Samuel 12:7)

And David didn't post a rebuttal thread.
He didn't ghost Nathan.
He fell on his face and repented.

That's what made him a man after God's heart. Not his crown. His correction.

So I'm asking you like a brother:

**Who has your permission to wound you before the world does?
Who can put their finger on your ego and say, "That's not Christ—it's control
dressed in a Bible verse"?**

Because if no one can challenge you, you're not submitted to Christ. You're just self-governed in Jesus' name.

3. UNPASTORED MEN RAISE UNPASTORED FAMILIES

Let's zoom out.

Want to know why the Church is full of shallow believers?
Why our kids are walking away from the faith?
Why the enemy has free reign in homes that look perfect on Instagram?

It's because **men stopped submitting to Jesus and started substituting Him with performance, politics, and passivity.**

Proverbs 14:12:

"There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death."

Isaiah 30:1:

"What sorrow awaits my rebellious children," says the Lord. "You make plans that are contrary to mine. You make alliances not directed by my Spirit, thus piling up your sins."

We've got pastors with no pastor.
Fathers with no father figure.
Leaders with no Lord.

And the cycle continues.

You hit a ceiling.
You start blaming the church.
You start complaining about your wife.
You say, "This house doesn't respect me."

But here's the mirror:

**You're not losing your home because of what's happening around you.
You're losing your home because you're not anchored to anything above you.**

Jesus doesn't trust unsubmitted leadership.

You are either leading your family in **formation** or in **frustration**.

If you don't want to plateau spiritually, you must plant yourself deeply in *pastoring, correction, and covenant*. Not just with God—but with His body.

So if you want to go higher—**you've got to kneel lower.**

4. SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE IS GLORIFIED REBELLION IN CAMOUFLAGE

This is what it sounds like when men start to drift:

- “I just follow God. I don’t need a church.”
- “God speaks to me directly.”
- “I don’t trust pastors.”
- “My walk is personal—it’s private.”

Let’s translate that:

“I don’t want to be challenged. I want to be in charge.”

Proverbs 18:1:

“Unfriendly people care only about themselves; they lash out at common sense.”

1 Corinthians 12:21:

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you.’”

But Jesus didn’t live that way.

The Son of God—perfect, all-knowing, all-powerful—*submitted*.

To a Father in heaven. *“Not my will, but Yours be done.”* (Luke 22:42)

To an earthly family. *“He went down with them and was submissive to them.”* (Luke 2:51)

To a mission that included *suffering, silence, and surrender*. *“He learned obedience through what He suffered.”* (Hebrews 5:8)

So if you think you’re too spiritual to be submitted, ask yourself:

Are you more perfect than Jesus?

If not, **get under some covering before your house collapses.**

APPLICATION: REBUILD THE SPIRITUAL STRUCTURE OF YOUR HOME

Let’s not just preach. Let’s build. Three pointed, practical charges:

1. Name your shepherds.

If you don't have a pastor, you're a sitting target.
Your home is uncovered. Your leadership is unvetted.

Don't say, "The Holy Spirit is my pastor."
That's cute until you wreck your life because no one else could speak into it.

If you don't have a shepherd, you're a wandering sheep headed for a wolf pack.

You're not safe without spiritual fathering.

2. Ask for correction.

Call a man who knows you and say:

"What am I blind to?"

"Where am I weak?"

"What's out of order in my house?"

Don't wait for **collapse**.

Initiate correction *before* **crisis**.

Invite it. Pursue it. Honor it.

If no one is asking hard questions about your integrity, your screen time, your prayer life, and your marriage— you're living uncovered.

Invite the wounds that *save*, not the applause that *blinds*.

3. Submit your next move.

Big decisions? Small decisions?

Before you act, **ask**.

Before you lead, **listen**.

Before you take that job...

Before you make that move...

Before you post that rant...

Submit it.

Submission isn't weakness—it's wisdom.

It's not passive—it's prophetic.

It's not losing—it's *leading by example*.

It's not unmanly to get advice—it's what wise men do.

CLOSING CHARGE: THE ALTAR CALL FOR MEN WHO ARE DONE PLAYING GAMES

God isn't calling you to be a "spiritual influencer."

He's calling you to be a submitted, sanctified, Spirit-led shepherd of your home.

This isn't about charisma.

It's about *conviction*.

It's not about confidence.

It's about *character*.

It's not about how loud you roar.

It's about how low you kneel.

Because the man who won't kneel can't carry the weight of a home that's supposed to reflect the heart of Christ.

So here's the call:

Fathers—get under covering.

Husbands—invite correction.

Leaders—learn to follow.

Men—come back to submission.

Because revival doesn't start in stadiums.

It starts in living rooms.

It starts with fathers who don't just raise kids—

They raise *altars*.

They don't just protect their homes—

They *pastor* them.

And it all starts when a man says one bold, humble, powerful phrase:

"I'll submit."
