



Men of Honor

## Men of Honor

Father's Day - a day to celebrate & thank our Dads, many of whom have been Men of Honor. Today we discover the example Dads are to set for children to follow the rest of their lives.

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## teachingnotes

### Family Expectations

#### Colossians 3:18-20 (ESV)

**Wives**, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **Husbands**, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. **Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

This passage from Paul relates to everyone in the family - how we honor the Lord & treat each other. If we were ALL doing that, our homes would be a great place to be!

### DOs & DON'TS Of Fatherhood

By the Roman law fathers had the authority of life and death not only over his slaves but over his entire household. He could throw any of them out of the house, sell them as slaves, or even kill them. He was accountable to no one. A newborn child was placed at its father's feet to determine its fate. If the father picked it up, the child was allowed to stay in the home; if the father walked away, it was simply disposed of—much as aborted babies are in our own day.<sup>1</sup> That's the context in which Paul writes this next phrase.

### DON'Ts of Fatherhood

#### Colossians 3:21 (ESV)

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become **discouraged**.

Fathers have the power to **provoke** their children to anger. A father can poke and prod and cause children to **resent him** rather than **RESPECT Him**. Obviously, this is not the goal.

- **Humiliation:** It IS your job to *humble them*, not humiliate them. Discipline your children appropriately in private.
- **Harsh Words:** Those who use harsh words should prepare themselves for children who one day respond the same way to others. Instead our words should be both gentle & truthful.
- **Favoritism:** Our kids are different & we should treat them uniquely (different personalities/responses), but we should love them the same.
- **Unreasonable Demands:** Dads must allow their children to *fail...forward*. **Expect excellence**, but don't demand perfection.
- **Hypocrisy:** Don't expect your children to live different than you do. Be the Example of what you Expect.
- **Arrogance:** Be humble and honor others. Be ready to apologize & ask for forgiveness when YOU do wrong.
- **Absence:** Don't choose power, prestige, fame, money, or other people over your own children. Your children NEED your PRESENCE more than your PRESENTS.

### DOs of Fatherhood

#### Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord**.

This passage makes it clear that it is the parents' responsibility to **bring them up**, to train children **in the discipline and instruction of the Lord**. The ultimate end is not for children to follow the authority of their fathers, but instead that Fathers are vital in raising their children to follow **the Lord** Jesus.

### **BIG TRUTH Earthly Fathers Point to the Eternal Father**

<sup>1</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., Ephesians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986), 316.

🌟 **Adrian Rogers:** "I have never met a husband who loves Jesus with all his heart whose wife and children don't follow his lead."

Fathers are to both **discipline** and **instruct**. Fathers & mothers are to set the pace and show our children how to respond to God's **discipline** and **instruction** in our own lives.

❓ What would it look like if OUR children followed OUR example - a good thing or NOT?

### **Earthly Fathers Point to the Eternal Father**

**Hebrews 12:5b-7** (NIV) [from Prov 3:11-12]

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens everyone he accepts as his son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For **what children are not disciplined by their father?**

Dads who don't discipline are men who are NOT pointing their children to the Eternal Father. **Discipline** and **instruction** involves training a child to know and follow God.

**Proverbs 1:8** (NIV)

**Listen**, my son, **to your father's instruction** and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Notice that while both father & mother are addressed, men aren't to leave spiritual training up to our wives.

### **COURSE CORRECTIONS?**

1. **Make time for your children.** Turn off the technology. Never substitute presents (your gifts) for your PRESENCE (your face). They don't need your gifts...they need YOU.
2. **Confront, Correct, Comfort, & Celebrate your children.** Discipline, but never injure - their body nor their spirit - limit spanking, cool down first, ALWAYS give reason & reconcile afterwards. Catch them doing well and be their biggest cheerleader!
3. **Be the Spiritual Leader of your home.** Read the Scripture WITH your children & show them God's Words are Your ultimate authority. Pray WITH and FOR your children. Don't force Momma be the example of a godly person does. If you aren't a PRAYERFUL father, it's because you're a PRIDEFUL father. Talk about Jesus daily.
4. **Be the Dad you wish you had.** Become an example of a Godly father. Watch other Godly men. Ask questions. Grow!

### **Earthly Fathers Point to the Eternal Father**

## heretoseveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Rob & Rebecca Leatherberry** (229-232-1087), or **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405).

## discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. Who has been a **Man of Honor** in your life? Share some of the ways this man has influenced you.
2. **Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21.** Discuss why a father's discouragement can be so devastating in a child's life (e.g. humiliation, harsh words, favoritism, unreasonable demands, hypocrisy, arrogance, absence). Then discuss how the opposite of these actions can encourage children.
3. Adrian Rogers said, "I have never met a husband who loves Jesus with all his heart whose wife and children don't follow his lead." Why do you think a father's discipline and instruction is so important in the lives of children?
4. **Remember today's BIG TRUTH?** How has your earthly father influenced you - either negatively or positively - in how you view the Eternal Father? (Earthly Fathers Point to the Eternal Father)
5. What challenged or surprised you from today's teaching?
6. What do you need to do to apply God's Word to your life this week? What is God wanting you to do with with you have heard today?