



**Sermon Title:** A Fathers Influence: Shaping Lives for Eternity

**Date:** 6/18/2023

It would be difficult to overstate the impact that a father who is present and engaged has on the life of his children. Deuteronomy contains instructions for raising children who love God and live blessed lives. Moses addressed the parents and said if they followed these, it would go well. **Deuteronomy 6:1-3**

**Big Idea:** Live godly lives, and your family will be blessed

We will look at three characteristics of a godly father.

### **LOVES HIS WIFE**

When my boys were toddlers, I set off on a mission to seek advice from fathers who are in ministry. I approached dads who raised kids who love the Lord and those who raised kids who don't walk with the Lord. I asked for three pieces of advice they could give me to raise kids who love the Lord. Without fail, every one of them included in their list of advice – To be the best father for your children, Love your wife! **Ephesians 5:25**

### **LEADS HIS FAMILY**

The concept that the man as the head of the household is a countercultural view, especially today; it can rub people the wrong way. However, it is a concept that is clearly taught throughout scripture from Adam and Eve to the letters of the apostle Paul. **1 Corinthians 11:3**

The godly man is called to lead his family. The husband is to be head of his wife in the same way that Christ is head of his church. Husbands, fathers, if you want to know how to lead your family, look at how Christ leads his church. **Ephesians 5:23**

A few areas to focus on when it comes to leading your families are:

1. First and foremost, you are called to lead your family to love God. Teach God's word to your children. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

Additionally, make it a priority that your family attends church.

2. Next, live your life with integrity. Godly dads live with integrity. Integrity implies that you keep your word and do what you say you will do. When you live with integrity, you do not compartmentalize your life and act one way with one group of people and another way with a different group of people. If you lack integrity, your children will notice and view you as a hypocrite and pull away from you. Live in such a way that your kids naturally run toward you rather than away from you. **Proverbs 20:7**
3. Leadership also means you discipline when necessary. There are times when discipline and correction are necessary. And it is out of love, not anger. **Proverbs 13:24**. There are also times when you can choose to show compassion. **Psalms 103:13**

## LEAVES A LEGACY

Men, maybe you grew up with an absent or abusive or neglectful father who left a bad legacy. Now is your opportunity to break the cycle and create a new legacy for your family name.

When you leave this world, what legacy do you want to leave? What is the main thing you want to pass on to your children? As Christian godly men, the greatest legacy we pass on as fathers is the spiritual heritage we give to our children, desiring them to walk in the way of the Lord.

### Proverbs 20:7 ESV

**The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!**

Dads, don't allow the cultural view of you to determine your value. The role you have in the family is invaluable. The evangelist Billy Graham once said that "*a good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.*"

Men, how will your family summarize your life? What will be said about you when you are gone? **Live godly lives, and your family will be blessed.**

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How is our culture impacted because of absentee fathers in the lives of children?**
- **In your life, who comes to mind when you think of a godly man? How has his life blessed you?**
- **How would you counsel someone who rejects God as Father because of their negative experiences with their earthly father?**
- **When have you seen your own father demonstrate both tenderness and strength?**