

REMINDER

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Dr. James Dobson

The Essential Father

from *Bringing Up Boys*, by Dr. James Dobson

We have seen that boys are in serious trouble today and that many of them are experiencing emotional pressure that contributes to violence, drug abuse, early sexual activity, and other forms of rebellious behavior. Even some teens that play by the rules and seem to be doing fine are struggling quietly with problems of identity and meaning. On behalf of them, and for the little boys who have not yet encountered these difficulties, we need to examine the specific forces that have created such an unhealthy environment for kids and, more important, what to do about them.

Chief among the threats to this generation of boys is the breakdown of the family. Every other difficulty we will consider has been caused by or is related to that fundamental tragedy. It can hardly be overstated. We have been emphasizing for years that stable, lifelong marriages provide the foundation for social order. Everything of value rests on those underpinnings. Historically, when the family begins to unravel in a given culture, everything from the effectiveness of government to the general welfare of the people is adversely impacted. This is precisely what is happening to us today. The family is being buffeted and undermined by the forces operating around it. Alcoholism, pornography, gambling, infidelity, and other virulent infections have seeped into its bloodstream. "No-fault divorce" is still the law of the land in most states, resulting in thousands of unnecessary family breakups. Clearly, there is trouble on the home front. And as we all know, it is the children who are suffering most from it. In cultures where divorce becomes commonplace or large numbers of men and women choose to live together or copulate without bothering to marry, untold millions of kids are caught in the chaos.

If I may be permitted to offer what will sound like hyperbole, I believe the future of Western civilization depends on how we handle this present crisis. Why? Because we as parents are raising the next generation of men who will either lead with honor and integrity or abandon every good thing they have inherited. They are the bridges to the future. Nations that are populated largely by immature, immoral, weak-willed, cowardly, and self-indulgent men cannot and will not long endure. These types of men include those who sire and abandon their children; who cheat on their wives; who lie, steal, and covet; who hate their countrymen; and who serve no god but money. That is the direction culture is taking today's boys. We must make the necessary investment to counter these influences and to build within our boys lasting qualities of character, self-discipline, respect for authority, commitment to the truth, a belief in the work ethic, and an unshakable love for Jesus Christ. The pursuit of those objectives led me to undertake the writing of this book.

The devastating impact of family disintegration on children is indisputable. A special U.S. commission consisting of authorities on child development was convened in the 1990s to examine the general health of adolescents. This report, called Code Blue, concluded: "Never before has one generation of American teenagers been less healthy, less cared for, or less prepared for life." Most of the characteristics the commission decried are even worse today. This is occurring, mind you, in one of the most affluent and privileged nations in the history of the world. It is a direct result of marital disintegration and related forces at work against the family.

I know I've thrown too many statistics at you this far, but the ones I will share now should be put in neon lights: Seventy percent of African-American babies and 19 percent of white babies in the United States are born out of wedlock. Most will never know their fathers or experience what it means to be loved by them. Only 34 percent of all children born in America will live with both biological parents through age eighteen. This is a recipe for trouble, especially when we consider the fact that 62 percent of mothers with children under three are employed. The number was half that in 1975! Fully 72 percent of mothers with children under eighteen currently hold jobs. This busyness of mothers combined with the noninvolvement of fathers means that too often, there is nobody home! No wonder boys are in such a mess today!

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IN DEFENSE OF BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY

by Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Pastor
First Baptist Church - Spring Valley, California
(continued from last week)

THE NOVATIANS

The Novatians were named because of the leadership of a man named Novatian (?-258 A.D.). Novatian was saved in about 250 A.D., from a pagan philosophical background. Because he became very ill and expected to die, he was not scripturally baptized, but received "clinic baptism." There is no record that after his recovery he was baptized correctly. This lack of a record does not prove that he was not properly baptized, only that there is no record of it. Novatian was ordained to the ministry of the church at Rome by the Pastor, Fabian

The edicts of Decius Trajan (250 A.D.) brought severe persecution to the churches. When those who had denied Christ and sacrificed to pagan idols and the "genius of the emperor" sought readmittance to church membership, a great controversy began. Two views were popular. 1) The view of strict discipline held that such people could never again be fit for church membership because of the nature of their apostasy, although the possibility of receiving God's forgiveness was not denied. 2) The second view was that of loose discipline, believing that such people could be restored to church membership following public confession of their sin and a period of probation.

One of the forerunners of Novation was the Roman pastor **Hippolytus** who was a disciple of **Irenaeus** and was martyred by being drowned in the Tiber river. He was an advocate of strict discipline, and caused a schism in the church of Rome. Novatian was a strong advocate of the strict discipline viewpoint, and upon the death of Fabian in 250 A.D., Novatian rivaled the popular Cornelius (who held to the loose discipline viewpoint) for the vacant position of Pastor. When the people chose Cornelius, Novatian withdrew from the church, taking a large group of people with him. The division was bitter, and a number of false charges were spread about Novation to discredit him. It has been said that the reason for this great division was Novatian's ambition for personal power, and that when he was not selected to be the pastor, he formed a rival church out of spite. Historical records show that the issue was over church discipline, and that in fact Novation was chosen pastor by the withdrawing group against his wishes.

The doctrines of the Novations are well recorded by their own writings. They stood for: the purity of church membership, believing that a church should separate itself from all apostasy, impurity, and worldliness. They practiced rigid church discipline, the re-baptism of apostates; baptized by immersion only, without great ceremony, on church authority (as opposed to the authority of a man), of mature believers only. These doctrines led to the first real and lasting division among the ranks of Christendom. The Novation churches would no longer accept the baptism of the

"established" churches. The separation occurred in 251 A.D.

The greatest charges brought against the Novations is the assertion that Novatian was not scripturally baptized. To this I would answer: Novation's teaching concerning baptism was that baptism was by church authority and was to be performed by immersion only. He practiced "rebaptism" of all who came from the "established" churches. This suggests, to me at least, that he was correctly baptized, although no evidence has survived to this day. Even if Novatian was never scripturally baptized, he taught that the authority for such baptism was with the church concerned, not with the actual person administering it. Thus Novationist baptism would not have been invalidated.

While the name and initial beginnings of the Novations were in Rome, the teachings quickly spread. In 250 A.D. at Carthage, a similar split occurred prior to that in Rome when a lenient pastor by the name of **Novatus**, and a deacon named **Felicissimus**, withdrew from the church following the hasty election of Cyprian to the office of pastor. At the time, Cyprian held stricter views on the issue of re-admittance, but after the split, Novatus reversed his stand and joined the strict Novatian cause. By 254 these dissenters were complained of as having "infected France with their doctrine."

Schaff notes that in spite of this strong opposition the Novatian sect, by virtue of its moral earnestness, propagated itself in various provinces of the east and west down to the sixth century. In Phrygia, they combined with the remnants of the Montanists.

Robinson, in his Ecclesiastical Researches, (page 126, Cambridge) states: ***"The Novatians were the earliest Anabaptists; refusing to recognize as valid the ministry and sacraments of their opponents and, claiming to be the true church, they were logically compelled to rebaptize all who came to them from the Catholic church. The party gained great strength in Asia Minor where many Montanists joined it, and, in spite of persecution, the Novatians survived to the 6th or 7th century."***

Dr. Robinson traces a continuation of them up to the Reformation and the rise of the Anabaptist movement. Great numbers followed his, i.e. Novatian's, example, and all over the empire Puritan churches were constituted and flourished through 200 succeeding years. Afterwards, when penal law obliged them to lurk in corners and worship God in private, they were distinguished by a variety of names and succession of them continued until the reformation.

On the count of the purity of their lives they were called the Cathari, that is, the pure. ***"What is still more,"*** says Mosheim, ***"they rebaptized such as came over to them from the Catholics"*** (Mosheim: Institutes Of Ecclesiastical History I, page 203, New York, 1871). ***"Since they baptized those who came to them from other communions they were called Anabaptists. The fourth Lateran Council decreed that these rebaptizers should be punished by death. ... They were, says Robinson, 'Trinitarian Baptists.' They held to the independence of churches; and recognized the equality of all pastors in respect to dignity and authority."*** ■

Behavioral scientists have only recently begun to understand how critical fathers are to the healthy development of both boys and girls. According to psychiatrist Kyle Pruett, the author of *Fatherhood*, dads are as important to children as moms, but in a very different way. While children of all ages—both male and female—have an innate need for contact with their fathers, let me emphasize again that boys suffer most from the absence or noninvolvement of fathers. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, boys without fathers are twice as likely to drop out of school, twice as likely to go to jail, and nearly four times as likely to need treatment for emotional and behavioral problems as boys with fathers.

Repeatedly during my review of the latest research for this book, I came face-to-face with the same disturbing issue. Boys are in trouble today primarily because their parents, and especially their dads, are distracted, overworked, harassed, exhausted, disinterested, chemically dependent, divorced, or simply unable to cope. As indicated above, all other problems plaguing young males flow from (or are related to) these facts of life in the twenty-first century. Chief among our concerns is the absence of masculine role modeling and mentoring that dads should be providing. Mothers, who also tend to be living on the ragged edge, are left to do a job for which they have had little training or experience. Having never been boys, women often have only a vague notion of how to go about rearing one. Boys are the big losers when families splinter..

Dr. William Pollock, Harvard psychologist and author of *Real Boys*, concludes that divorce is difficult for children of both sexes but it is devastating for males. He says the basic problem is the lack of discipline and supervision in the father's absence and his unavailability to teach what it means to be a man. Pollock also believes fathers are crucial in helping boys to manage their emotions. As we have seen, without the guidance and direction of a father, a boy's frustration often leads to varieties of violence and other antisocial behavior..

Numerous researchers agree that losing a dad (or never having had one) is catastrophic for males. Thirty years ago it was believed that poverty and discrimination were primarily responsible for juvenile crime and other behavioral problems. Now we know that family disruption is the real culprit. Despite all the red flags that warn us of the dangers, cavalier attitudes abound with regard to premarital pregnancy, divorce, infidelity, and cohabitation..

Don Elum, author of *Raising a Son*, says that with troubled boys, the common theme is distant, uninvolved fathers and, in turn, mothers who have taken on more responsibility to fill the gap..

Sociologist Peter Karl believes that because boys spend up to 80 percent of their time with women, they don't know how to act as men when they grow up. When that happens, the relationship between the sexes is directly affected. Men become helpless and more and more like big kids.

These statistics and trends can't be appreciated fully until we

see how they are translated into the lives of individuals. I was talking recently to such a person—a fifty-eight-year-old man who described the unhappy memory of his father. His dad had been a minister who was consumed by work and other interests. This father never came to sporting events or any other activities in which his son was a participant. He neither disciplined nor affirmed him. By the time the boy was a senior in high school, he was the starting guard on a winning big-school football team. When his team qualified for the state championship, this boy was desperate to have his dad see him play. He begged, "Would you please be there on Friday night? It is very important to me." The father promised to come..

On the night of the big game, the boy was on the field warming up when he happened to see his father enter the stadium with two other men wearing business suits. They stood talking among themselves for a moment or two and then left. The man who told me this story had tears streaming down his cheeks as he relived that difficult moment of so long ago. It had been forty years since that night, and yet the rejection and disappointment he felt as a teenager were as vivid as ever. A year after our conversation, this man's father died at eighty-three years of age. My friend stood alone before his dad's casket at the funeral home and said sorrowfully, "Dad, we could have shared so much love together—but I never really knew you."

Going back to the night of the football game, I wonder what that father considered more important than being there for his son. Was his "to do" list really more urgent than meeting the needs of the boy who bore his name? For whatever reasons, that man allowed the years to slide by without fulfilling his responsibilities at home. Although he is gone, his legacy is like that of countless fathers who were too busy, too selfish, and too distracted to care for the little boys who reached for them. Now their record is in the books. If only they could go back and do it differently. If only . . . ! If only . . . !.

A father holds awesome power in the lives of his children, for good or ill. Families have understood that fact for centuries. It has been said, "No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a boy." Another wise observer said, "Tie a boy to the right man and he almost never goes wrong." They are both right. When asked who their heroes are, the majority of boys who are fortunate enough to have a father will say, "It's my dad." On the other hand, when a father is uninvolved—when he doesn't love or care for his kids—it creates an ache, a longing, that will linger for decades. Again, without minimizing how much girls need their fathers, which we also acknowledge, boys are constructed emotionally to be dependent on dads in ways that were not understood until recently..

We now know that there are two critical periods during childhood when boys are particularly vulnerable. The most obvious occurs at the onset of puberty, when members of both sexes experience an emotional and hormonal upheaval. Boys and girls at that time desperately need their father's supervision, guidance, and love. Divorce at that time, more than at others, is typically devastating to boys. But according to Dr. Carol Gilligan,

professor at Harvard University, there is another critical period earlier in life—one not shared by girls. Very young boys bask in their mother's femininity and womanliness during infancy and toddlerhood. Fathers are important then, but mothers are primary. At about three to five years of age, however, a lad gradually pulls away from his mom and sisters in an effort to formulate a masculine identity. It is a process known as "disconnection and differentiation," when, as Don Elum writes, "the inner urge of the male plan of development nudges him out of the nest of the mother over a precarious bridge to the world of the father."⁸ It is typical for boys during those years, and even earlier, to crave the attention and involvement of their dad and to try to emulate his behavior and mannerisms..

I remember my son clearly identifying with my masculinity when he was in that period between kindergarten and first grade. For example, as our family prepared to leave in the car, Ryan would say, "Hey, Dad. Us guys will get in the front seat and the girls will sit in the back." He wanted it known that he was a "guy" just like me. I was keenly aware that he was patterning his behavior and masculinity after mine. That's the way the system is supposed to work..

But here's the rub: When fathers are absent at that time, or if they are inaccessible, distant, or abusive, their boys have only a vague notion of what it means to be male. Whereas girls have a readily available model after which to pattern feminine behavior and attitudes (except when they are raised by single fathers), boys living with single mothers are left to formulate their masculine identity out of thin air. This is why early divorce is also devastating for boys. Writer Angela Phillips believes, and I agree, that the high incidence of homosexuality occurring in Western nations is related, at least in part, to the absence of positive male influence when boys are moving through the first crisis of child development. One of the primary objectives of parents is to help boys identify their gender assignments and understand what it means to be a man. We must return to that point when I talk in a later chapter about the antecedents of homosexuality..

I was blessed to have a wonderful father who was accessible to me from the earliest years of childhood. I'm told that when I was two years of age, my family lived in a one-bedroom apartment, and my little bed was located beside that of my parents. My father said later that it was very common during that time for him to awaken at night to a little voice that was whispering, "Daddy? Daddy?" My father would answer quietly, "What, Jimmy?" And I would say, "Hold my hand!" Dad would reach across the darkness and grope for my little hand, finally just engulfing it in his own. He said the instant he had my hand firmly in his grip, my arm would become limp and my breathing deep and regular. I'd immediately gone back to sleep. You see, I only wanted to know that he was there!.

I have a catalog of warm memories of my dad from the preschool years. One day when I was nearly three, I was at home with my mother and heard a knock on the front door..

"Go see who it is," she said with a little smile on her face..

I opened the door and there stood my dad. He took my hand

and said, "Come with me. I want to show you something." He led me to the side of the house, where he had hidden a big blue tricycle. It was one of the wonderful moments of my life. On another day during that same year, I recall trotting beside my big dad (he was six foot four) and feeling very proud to be with him. I even recall how huge his hand felt as it held mine..

I also remember the delightful times I roughhoused with my father. Many moms fail to understand why that kind of foolishness is important, but it is. Just as wolf cubs and leopard kittens romp and fight with each other, boys of all ages love to rumble. When I was five years old, my dad and I used to horrify my mother by having all-out kick fights. That's right! Kick fights! He weighed 180 pounds and I tipped the scales at about 50, but we went at each other like sumo wrestlers. He would entice me to kick his shins and then, inevitably, he would block my thrust with the bottom of his foot. That made me go after him again with a vengeance. Then dad would tap me on the shin with his toe. Believe it or not, this was wonderful fun for me. We would end up laughing hysterically, despite the bumps and bruises on my legs. My mother would demand that we stop, having no clue about why I loved this game. It was just a guy thing..

Child-protection officers today would throw the book at a man who had kick fights with his kids. Some might say that this "violence" at home could lead to criminal behavior. Likewise, many have concluded that corporal punishment, even when administered in a loving environment, teaches kids to hurt others. They are wrong. It isn't roughhousing or measured discipline that predisposes boys to misbehavior. It is often the absence of a father who can teach them how to be men and correct them authoritatively when they are wrong..

Let me illustrate this principle with a recent finding from the world of nature. Other than dogs, which I have always loved, the animals that fascinate me most are elephants. These magnificent creatures are highly emotional and surprisingly intelligent. I suppose that's why it is disturbing to see them suffering the encroachment of civilization.

That is happening in the Pilanesberg National Park in northwestern South Africa. Rangers there have reported that young bull elephants in that region have become increasingly violent in recent years—especially to nearby white rhinos. Without provocation, an elephant will knock a rhinoceros over and then kneel and gore it to death. This is not typical elephant behavior and it's been very difficult to explain..

But now game wardens think they've cracked the code. Apparently, the aggressiveness is a by-product of government programs to reduce elephant populations by killing the older animals. Almost all of the young rogues were orphaned when they were calves, depriving them of adult contact. Under normal circumstances, dominant older males keep the young bulls in line and serve as role models for them. In the absence of that influence, "juvenile delinquents" grow up to terrorize their neighbors. .

I know it's risky to apply animal behavior too liberally to

human beings, but the parallel here is too striking to miss. Let me say it one more time: The absence of early supervision and discipline is often catastrophic — for teenagers and for elephants..

Prisons are populated primarily by men who were abandoned or rejected by their fathers. Motivational speaker and writer Zig Ziglar quotes his friend Bill Glass, a dedicated evangelist who counseled almost every weekend for twenty-five years with men who were incarcerated, as saying that among the thousands of prisoners he had met, not one of them genuinely loved his dad. Ninety-five percent of those on death row hated their fathers. In 1998, there were 1,202,107 people in federal or state prisons. Of that number 94 percent were males. Of the 3,452 prisoners awaiting execution, only forty-eight were women. That amounts to 98.6 percent males. Clearly, as Barbara Jackson said, "it is far easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

Some years ago, executives of a greeting-card company decided to do something special for Mother's Day. They set up a table in a federal prison, inviting any inmate who so desired to send a free card to his mom. The lines were so long, they had to make another trip to the factory to get more cards. Due to the success of the event, they decided to do the same thing on Father's Day, but this time no one came. Not one prisoner felt the need to send a card to his dad. Many had no idea who their fathers even were. What a sobering illustration of a dad's importance to his children..

Contrast that story with a conversation I once had with a man named Bill Houghton, who was president of a large construction firm. Through the years, he had hired and managed thousands of employees. I asked him: "When you are thinking of hiring an employee—especially a man—what do you look for?" His answer surprised me. He said, "I look primarily at the relationship between the man and his father. If he felt loved by his dad and respected his authority, he's likely to be a good employee." Then he added, "I won't hire a young man who has been in rebellion against his dad. He will have difficulty with me, too." I have also observed that the relationship between a boy and his father sets the tone for so much of what is to come. He is that important at home..

As I have been writing the words of this chapter, my thoughts have turned repeatedly to the single mothers who are rearing boys on their own. I'm sure that the findings I've reported about fathers and about divorce have been deeply disturbing to some. Forgive me for that. Your circumstances are tough enough without my making them more difficult. The overriding question for you is, "How can I compensate for the absence of a father who should be there to teach my boys the essence of manhood?" That is not an easy question, but there are answers for it..

Despite everything I've shared, there is hope for women who are raising boys alone. Admittedly the task is terribly difficult, but millions of mothers have done it admirably, overcoming serious limitations and obstacles. We will talk more about those concerns in future chapters, but for now, let me simply say that family life is almost never ideal. That is why each of us has to

cope with unique challenges and problems. Some parents are confronted every day with sickness, some with poverty, some with an alcoholic spouse, and some with a disabled child or parent. In those situations and many more, families must evaluate their circumstances and decide how to make the most of them. I urge those of you who are single parents to take this considered approach to your family. God loves your children even more than you do, and He will help you raise them. There are also ways to substitute for an absent father, and I have offered some of those ideas and suggestions in Chapter 10. I hope you will find them helpful..

[Space limitations prevent me from doing so here, but at this point in the chapter I shared a touching letter written by a young mother, Karen Cotting, whose husband, Cliff, died suddenly while jogging. See [Bringing Up Boys](#) for the text of Mrs. Cotting's letter.]

I have shared this letter primarily for the benefit of the young fathers among my readers. If you are among them, let me remind you that only God knows how long you will be on this earth. Life can be unexpectedly short. Do not squander today's opportunities to relate to your children or to teach them about your faith. Don't let your career absorb your every resource and make you a virtual stranger at home. May the memories you leave behind, whether you live an hour longer or many more decades, be as warm and loving as those created by Cliff Cotting. His record is in the books; yours is yet to be written..

Thank you for reading along with me here. As you can tell from this excerpt, I feel that [Bringing Up Boys](#) may be the most important book I've written. That is because, to quote again from Chapter 5, "*we as parents are raising the next generation of men who will either lead with honor and integrity or abandon every good thing they have inherited.*" ■



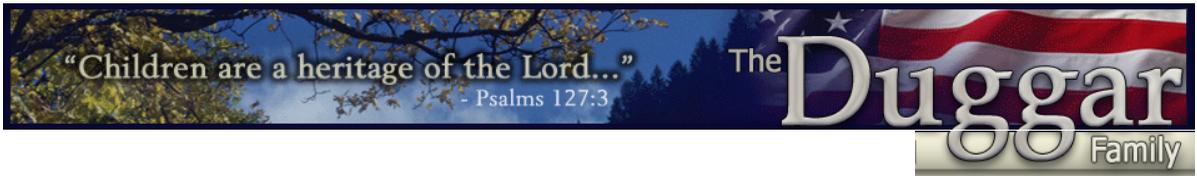
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Rescheduled Date -

**Sunday Morning
August 2, 2009**

- ❑ **Duggar-family Musicians Will Play and Sing For Our Service!**
- ❑ **Jim Bob Duggar Will Be Speaking In The Morning Service!**
- ❑ **Michelle Duggar To Give Devotional At Rebekah White's Baby Shower At 1:30 p.m.**

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!



DAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Four times in the Gospel of John we read that Judas was Simon's son (Jn. 6:71; 12:4; 13:2, 26). It must have been bitter indeed for Simon to hear himself so often referred to as the father of Judas. Somewhere in the raising of his son, something was wrong. Many a Christian father today is heading down the same road with his children. The Word of God is crying out to them so as to say, **"Dad! What are you doing?"**

DAD! ARE YOU THE HEAD OF YOUR HOME?

The Bible declares that just as **"Christ is the head of the Church"** the husband is **"the head of the wife"** (Eph. 5:23). The man is to be in charge of his home and his wife is to follow his leading. If she is ordering him around from day to day, he needs to stop and ask himself, **"Am I the head of this home?"**

Little spiritual good for his children will come about in a home where God's order is reversed and the father is a **WIMP**. A wife ought to be **scared to death** to fly in the face of God's Word when it plainly says, **"But permit not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man."** (1 Timothy 2:12).

DAD! ARE YOU FAITHFUL TO YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN?

Just as the Lord Jesus is faithful in providing for the needs of the Church, the father is to provide for the needs of his family. God has assigned him the task of being the "breadwinner" for his wife and children (Gen. 3:16-19; 1 Tim. 5:8). His "helpmeet" is the weaker vessel (1 Pet. 3:7) and is commanded by God to be a "keeper (or stayer) at home" (Tit. 2:5). The Lord Jesus is also faithful to his Church and will have no relationship with the Harlot Church (Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:2).

So also, Dad is to be faithful to his wife. He will not flirt with women at work or waitresses in a restaurant. Any man who is doing such things needs to stop and read Proverbs 5:15-23 where God says, **"And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger."** An unfaithful father will produce unfaithful children.

DAD! DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY ALTAR?

A Christian father ought to gather his children together for Bible reading and prayer each day. In the old days this was referred to as the "Family Altar." It is still true that **"man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."**

If we are going to have Christian children we are going to have to show them our total love for the Word of God and our absolute belief in prayer. Oftentimes fathers who will not discard

their TV to the rubbish pile will refuse to establish time for the family altar.

Dad! Have you read Psalm 101:1-3? - "I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes? I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

DAD! DO YOU SPANK YOUR CHILDREN?

A man who does not spank his children when they are being disobedient hates them. A father who loves his children will spank them and keep them from going to hell.

1. **"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 13:24).**
2. **"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18).**
3. **"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15).**
4. **"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Proverbs 23:13-14).**
5. **"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15).**

Children need to learn that unacceptable conduct brings punishment. It is basic to their understanding of Salvation. A child left to go on in sin without restraint will have little appreciation for One Who came to die for his sins. A child raised without fear of punishment will have little fear of a God who punishes sinners (Rom. 3:18).

DAD! ARE YOU STEADY AT CHURCH?

A father who does not attend all the regular meetings of the church shows his family that Church is not important. It is a fundamental principle that *like produces like*. When you sow potatoes, you do not reap tomatoes. When you sow unfaithfulness to the Lord as He gathers the believers together, you will reap children who are unfaithful to the Lord. At the other extreme there are fathers who let their children sit home while they attend church. Your children should always be with you at church, and they should all sit with you.

DAD! ARE YOUR CHILDREN IN THE HEATHEN SCHOOLHOUSE?

If so, they will learn the "way of the heathen" which God says they are not to do (Jer. 10:2). Enroll them in a Christian school or teach them at home. You have been ordered to **"train up a child in the way he should go"** so that when he is old **"he will not depart from it"** (Pro. 22:6).

The words "TRAIN UP" mean *"to narrow"* and come from a root meaning *"to be narrow."* The heathen school has taken more children from Christian Homes to Hell than we can imagine.

Dad! It does not cost to send your children to Christian school - **IT PAYS**. It pays eternal dividends. Cash in your IRA, sell the house, drive an old car, skip the pool in the backyard, work two jobs - but take your children to Heaven with you!

DAD! ARE YOUR CHILDREN DATING THE LOST?

Marrying the lost children of the Devil (John 8:44) sets up an unequal yoke which God has forbidden (II Cor. 6:14-18). I do not know anyone who got married without first dating. One inevitably leads to the other. Your children should be allowed to date only saved young people, and when I say **SAVED**, I mean *really SAVED*.

Anyone who gets "saved" so as to date your daughter should be made to wait six months. If they are still around after that time you might let them date (assuming your daughter is at a proper age to date) but only with a chaperone along to ensure everyone keeps their hands to themselves.

The stories of misery coming from "unequal yoke" marriages are to numerous to count.

Dad! They are your children and God has made you responsible as the Head of the Home.

- Paul L. Freeman

What Happens When The Woman Is The Man Of The House. . .

A man dies and goes to Heaven. Upon arriving at the entrance, he notices there are two signs, each over a different door. Over each door was a sign.

The sign over the left door read, "If you were a henpecked man, line up here." The man looks at that line, and notices it goes on for as far as the eye could see.

The sign over the other door read, "If you weren't a henpecked man stand here." Under it stood only one man - a small, frail, wimpy kind of a fellow.

The man who had just died looks at the long line, then at the short line and, scratching his head, goes over to the guy by himself and says, *"You mean to tell me you were never henpecked in your whole life?"* To which the little fellow replied, *"Well, I guess not . . . this is where my wife told me to stand."*

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Martin
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of June 14, 2009

Sunday School ----- 27
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 41
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 06/17/09 ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of June 7, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 960.00
 Love Offering Pastor & Shirley's Anniversary ---- \$ 225.00
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 10.00
Total Received for Week of 06/14/09: \$ 1,195.00

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church
 EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00** 🇺🇸

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

NEW HYMNAL FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,426.00

NEW PIANO FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 570.00

PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND

Total Received, To Date: \$ 335.00

Thank You -

*For the wonderful dinner, beautiful card,
 and more than generous gift for our
 anniversary. We love and appreciate you all!*

- Todd and Shirley White

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



**Please Remember To
 Be Faithful to Give!**

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White