

## **IT TAKES A HUSBAND AND FATHER**

### **Ephesians 5:22-33**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. A growing number of homes today are headed by only one parent.**
- 2. The husband/father is the one who is most often absent.**
- 3. The major reasons for the absence of husbands and fathers are:**
  - a. Divorce.**
  - b. Desertion.**
  - c. Drugs.**
  - d. Delinquency - men fathering children out of wedlock.**
  - e. Death.**
- 4. Children who do not have a father in the home are more likely to:**
  - a. Live below the poverty level.**
  - b. Drop out of school short of graduation.**
  - c. Get in trouble at school and with the law.**
  - d. Suffer mentally and emotionally throughout their lives.**
- 5. There is no substitute for the home as God ordained it with:**
  - a. A husband and father as the head and provider.**
  - b. A wife and mother to guide the home.**
  - c. Children who love, respect and obey their parents.**

#### **Discussion:**

#### **I. HUSBANDS ARE APPOINTED BY GOD TO BE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.**

##### **A. A wife must be in submission to her own husband.**

**“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything” (Eph. 5:22-24).**

##### **B. Husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church.**

**“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her... so husbands ought to love their own wives as**

their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself “ (Eph. 5:25, 28).

1. “Love” in this passage is from “agape,” a love of the will such as that which God has for all mankind.
2. Agape love desires the very best for the one loved.

## **II. WE CAN LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF BAD HUSBANDS.**

- A. Adam failed to lead and followed Eve into sin (Gen. 2:16,17; 3:6,7,17).
- B. Ahab allowed Jezebel to commit murder on his behalf (1 Kings 21).
- C. Ananias plotted with Sapphira to lie to God (Acts 5:1-11).

## **III. WE CAN LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLES OF GOOD HUSBANDS.**

- A. Boaz married Ruth and provided for her mother-in-law (Ruth 3, 4).
- B. Elkanah was better to Hannah “than ten sons” (1 Sam. 1:8).
- C. Joseph was a just man who took Mary as his wife even though she was expecting a child that was not his (Matt. 1:18-25).
- D. Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, were an active team for the Lord (Acts 18; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19).

## **IV. HUSBANDS HAVE GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES AS FATHERS.**

- A. A father must provide for his children (1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Cor. 12:14).
- B. A father must “bring his children up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).
- C. A father must set a good example for his children:  
  
“There are little eyes watching you every night and day;  
There are little ears that listen to everything you say;  
There are little hands all eager to do everything you do;  
There are little ones who are dreaming of being just like you.”
- D. A father must discipline his children:
  1. Discipline is an act of love; a failure to discipline is a failure to love.

2. The wise man said: “For whom the Lord loves, He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights” (Prov. 3:12).
3. He also said: “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly” (Prov. 13:24).

**V. WE MUST LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF BAD FATHERS.**

- A. Jacob favored Joseph over his brothers (Gen. 37:3)
- B. Eli did not restrain his wicked sons (1 Sam. 2:12 - 3:14).
- C. David spoiled his son, Absalom (2 Sam. 13 -19).

**VI. WE MUST LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLES OF GOOD FATHERS.**

- A. Abraham was chosen by GOD because he would “command his children and his household after him, that they might keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice...” (Gen. 18:19).
- B. Zacharias, father of John, with his wife, was “righteous before GOD, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Luke 1:5, 6).

**Conclusion:**

1. Faithful fathers have the precious privilege of raising God-fearing children.

“Behold, children are an heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate” (Psa. 127:3-5).

2. No man is a failure whose children are faithful to the Lord.
3. One wrote: “To be a truly great Christian father, one must be the right kind of man. A father, in being the right kind of man, must bear responsibility, bear up under adversity, and seek the spiritual welfare of each member of his family including himself. A father must be a gentleman always. Violence, sensuality, and greed he must not be guilty of, lest he lose his soul and the souls of those entrusted to his care. To be a great father and of great value, is to be like GOD” (The Spiritual Sword, April 1984, p. 9).
4. Being a great husband and father begins with being a Christian.
5. Have you obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 22:16)?

