

# Are Fathers Necessary?

Father's Day

June 20, 2021

## **DAY 1: God answers the title question!**

1. Dennis Prager did a 5-minute video with this title, "Are Father's Necessary?" Up until recently the necessity for this kind of talk would border on the absurd, but not in today's culture.
2. There has been a cultural assault on manhood for about fifty years. Jokes, comedy shows, sitcoms and movies have depicted many fathers to be goofballs, morons, who just end up making more messes for wives, moms, and children.
3. Sometimes the question is raised because of poor excuses for fathers such as abuse, irresponsibility, unfaithfulness, etc.
4. Sometimes the question is raised by pure naivete on one hand and sheer madness on the other. For decades in our culture parenting has been dumbed down to financial needs and parental love.
5. If the father can still love his children but not be in the house, what could be wrong with that? Additionally, because the nuclear family has been under assault, the belief has been foisted in our culture that all children need is love and ANY two people can perform that role.
6. What happens when you take a man out of the home? What effect does this have on children and later on young adults?
7. Children need to see their father's:

**STRENGTH**—to meet the disappointments, "crises", challenges of relationships and life. Children assume you will shelter them from the unforeseen events and forces that threaten them. You can't do that on Wednesdays and every other weekend.

**SECURITY**—The security of mom and dad staying together. What children dread is this: "If THAT love relationship between mom and dad can be broken, what gives us any hope that mom or dad's love could not be broken?" The husband-wife relationship is their best security! That's how kids see it!

What adults do not understand about children is that no matter how many thousands and thousands of times you assure them of your parental love, it can never overcome the tsunami that has come flooding into their lives with a marital breakup.

**MODEL**: How do you treat a woman? How do you grow a relationship with a woman over a long period of time? Modeling these qualities is far more important than being able to elucidate them. When our kids were growing up they regularly heard the words, "Mindy I was harsh with you. Would you forgive me?"

They need to see how you manage your responsibilities? How do you keep your priorities in balance? You have to see that your family's financial needs are met AND keep up with the duties of running a household AND build your marriage, AND raise your children.

Children don't learn these things in the classroom. They learn these things like they get the measles—by exposure. How do you deal with failure? With setbacks? With conflict?

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## DAY 2: Men of character in everyday life

1. In Paul's letter to Titus, Paul instructs Titus to teach certain qualities to five different people in his ministry: older men, older women, younger women, younger men, and those who were slaves or servants in that Mediterranean culture.

*Titus 2:2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

a. Temperate – the word can be translated *sober, self-controlled, seriousness, or sound moral judgment.*

b. Worthy of respect – the word can be translated *honorable, honest, serious*

c. Self-controlled – the word can be translated *discreet, moderation, sober.* The idea is to learn to control one's passions and desires. The image is breaking a stallion in order to control the horse's power for practical and recreational uses.

d. Sound in faith – the word "sound" can be translated *uncorrupt, sound, healthy.* In English we say "he is sound of mind and body."

The word "faith" means to live in right relationship with God.

e. Sound in love – "agape" is the Greek word used here. It is a sacrificial love for the benefit of another even when it costs something from the giver—even sacrifice.

f. Sound in endurance – "Hupomone" is the Greek word for patient waiting, cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, or constancy. The idea is someone who is a "Steady Eddie," that just keeps going no matter the discouragements of life.

2. These qualities are not just "male" qualities. They are also qualities of females. But what Paul and the scriptures depict is *how* these qualities *manifest* or *show themselves* in the male gender. These qualities are not just helpful to men as they live their lives. These qualities are important for men to display in everyday life—for the sake of others! Both children and adults benefit from being around men like this!

- Relating to men like this,
- Being influenced by men like this,
- Being mentored by men like this,
- Following the example of men like this.

3. What strikes you from today's devotional?

### **DAY 3: Men of character in marriage: Loving sacrifice and tender relating**

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **love** your wives as Christ love the church and **gave Himself up** for her.*

1. Men have the opportunity to reflect the sacrificial love of Jesus for others. It can be most clearly seen in the marriage relationship.

2. “Love” is the Greek word “agape” which means sacrificial love at any cost to the giver.

3. It is a love:

- That takes the initiative to do what it can for the beloved,
- Is moving toward the one loved, not waiting passively for the loved to initiate love.
- That sacrifices time to listen and talk,
- That sacrifices time to serve her
- That sacrifices his financial desires for hers.

*Ephesians 5:28 Even so, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies, for he who loves his wife loves himself.*

*Ephesians 5:29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they **feed** and **care** for their body, just as Christ does the church*

4. “Feed” – means to *nourish*. The idea is this husband is life-giving.

5. “Care” – to *warm, foster, or cherish*. He is tender to his wife. He is the opposite of a bull in a china shop.

6. How does this teaching on marriage relate to being a father?

a. If you have sons, they need to see how to love a woman and the intricacies of how to relate to a woman. Young husbands find this far more complicated than they imagined when they got married. To be able to look back at how your own father related to his wife provides an audio-visual “video” to you.

b. If you have daughters, they need to see how you respectfully and tenderly treat a woman. Daughters need to “learn” to see what male maturity looks like and not settle on just anyone.

7. Do you know a man who exhibits some of these characteristics? What do you observe in him?

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

#### **DAY 4: Male strength; self-control.**

1. One of the ways a father is needed is with his sons. Young males are naturally wild. This becomes more obvious in the teenage years. Male sons need to learn how to control their passions and desires. Without self-control, wildness can exert itself in law-breaking, rebellion against authority, abusing sexuality, or violence. “Lesser” problems include laziness and irresponsibility.

2. When King David was on his death bed he talked with Solomon who would succeed David as king. Here’s the short version of what he told Solomon.

*1 Kings 2:2 Be strong and show yourself a man.*

3. What David understands is that to be a man means strength to face the responsibilities, problems and relational issues that will come his way.

4. How would you define this kind of strength? What words come to mind?

5. Who do you know who exhibits the kind of strength David is calling for? What do you observe in him?

6. After each of the verses below, jot down how this strength is seen in a man.

*Proverbs 16:32 Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.*

*Proverbs 25:28 A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.*

*Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man falls down seven times but gets up, but the unrighteous are overthrown by calamity.*

*Isaiah 32:8 But the noble man makes noble plans and by noble deeds he stands.*

7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

## DAY 5: 2 examples of male strength

1. Here is Jeremiah's call to the ministry.

*Jeremiah 1:17-19 Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. <sup>18</sup> Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.*

2. What will be needed to fulfill his call?

3. When God heard the prayers of His people who were being oppressed by the Midianites He sent an angel to Gideon, who was naturally a very weak and insecure man.

*Judges 6:12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."*

<sup>13</sup> *"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"*

<sup>15</sup> *"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."*

4. What is Gideon's attitude about himself?

5. What is the angel's attitude about Gideon and what Gideon is being called to do?

6. Where will Gideon find that kind of strength?

7. What strikes you about the kind of strength these men will need for their assignments?

8. From this week's devotionals, what is your biggest take away about what it means to be a man?