

Entrust Lesson 11 Biblical Masculinity & Fathering 2/16/23

**Introduction:**

- Helpful books on parenting
  - *Duties for Dads*, JC Ryle
  - *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, Ted Tripp
  - *Raising Men not Boys*, Mike Fabarez
  - *Masculine Mandate*, Rick Phillips
  - *Future Men*, Douglas Wilson
  - *The Word Filled Family*, John MacArthur

1. The Need for Fathering

- a. General revelation, & natural light, is enough to urge the world of the need for present, biblical fathers:

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.4 million children, 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home.<sup>1</sup>

- In 2012, the US Census Bureau also reported:

“With the increasing number of premarital births and a continuing high divorce rate, the proportion of children living with just one parent rose from 9.1% in 1960 to 20.7% in 2012. Currently, 55.1% of all black children, 31.1% of all Hispanic children, and 20.7% of all white children are living in single-parent homes.”<sup>2</sup>

- In 2016, roughly 40 percent of births in the United States occur outside of marriage, up from 28 percent in 1990 (increase per ethnicity: 15 to 28% among whites; 34 to 52% among Hispanics; 63 to 69% among blacks).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/families/children.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/dramatic-increase-in-percentage-of-births-outside-marriage-among-whites-hispanics-and-women-with-higher-education->

- John Sowers (*Fatherless Generation*):
  - Children from fatherless homes account for<sup>4</sup>
    - 63% of youth suicides
    - 71% of pregnant teenagers
    - 90% of all homeless & runaway children
    - 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions
    - 85% of all youth who exhibit behavior disorders
    - 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger
    - 71% of all high school dropouts
    - 75% of adolescents in chemical abuse centers
    - 85% of all youths in prison
  
- In 1994 the Swiss carried out an extra survey... The question was asked to determine whether a person's religion carried through to the next generation, and if so, why, or if not, why not... There is one critical factor. It is overwhelming, and it is this: It is the religious practice of the father of the family that, above all, determines the future attendance at or absence from church of the children.<sup>5</sup>
  
- "In terms of commitment, a mother's role may be to encourage and confirm, but it is not primary to her adult offspring's decision. Mothers' choices have dramatically less effect upon children than their fathers', and without him she has little effect on the primary lifestyle choices her offspring make in their religious observances."<sup>6</sup>
  
- James W. Alexander: "There is no member of a household whose individual piety is of such importance to all the rest as the father or head. And there is no one whose soul is so directly influenced by the exercise of domestic worship. Where the head of a family is lukewarm or worldly, he will send the chill through the whole house."<sup>7</sup>

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[levels#:~:text=Recent%20estimates%20show%20that%20about,\(Child%20Trends%2C%202016\).](#)

<sup>4</sup> John Sowers, *Fatherless Generation*, 36-37.

<sup>5</sup> Robbie Low, "The Truth about Men & Church," *Touchstone* (June 2003).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> James W. Alexander, *Thoughts on Family Worship*, 33.

- Foster & Tennant: “Because the father is the head, as he goes, so goes his household. And as the household goes, so goes the society.”<sup>8</sup>
- Conclusion from statistics:

There is no denying that fatherlessness plays a huge role in the decay of society.

When individuals abandon God’s design for gender, sexuality, and the family, catastrophic consequences result.

Scripture is clear that the order of the home begins with the stability that comes from a man finding a wife and becoming a father. Men must take responsibility for choosing a wife.

## 2. Special Revelation & the Need for Fathering

- a. Kids enter the world naturally depraved & dead in sin

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

Romans 3:10–12 as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; <sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

Ephesians 2:1–3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

- b. Kids enter the world prepackaged with sin & foolishness

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

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<sup>8</sup> Foster & Tennant, *It’s Good to Be a Man: A Handbook for Godly Masculinity*, 113.

- Kids are not programmed to have self-control, a fear of God, & regeneration

### 3. Fathering & Shepherding-Care

#### a. Compassion as the “dad” trait

Psalm 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

- According to this verse, Scripture sees compassion as a “dad” trait
- Hebrew word “compassion” – “show mercy, take pity on, show love, i.e., have feelings and actions of kindness and concern for one in difficulty, regardless of one’s state of guilt for an offense..” (DBL).
- Compassion-affirmation:
  - Lots of Jesus & the cross (cf. 1 Cor 2:2)
  - “Psalm 127 says that children are a gift. You certainly are God’s good present to me.”
  - “I am glad that you are my son/ daughter.”
  - “No matter what you do, including when you move out of the house, I will always love you, pray for you, and be here for you. You can call me anytime, for anything, no matter what situation you are in, and I will help you.”

#### b. Discipline

##### i. Discipline is inherently loving

Hebrews 12:5–6 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; <sup>6</sup> FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Douglas Wilson: “Refusal to discipline amounts to hatred and is simply a slow, cruel way for a man to disown his son, clearly marking him out as illegitimate. True discipline is the foundation of respect – respect that will last a lifetime.”<sup>9</sup>

ii. Discipline is commanded

Proverbs 23:13–14 Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup> You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

iii. However, discipline, as in all fathering, must occur in the context of the fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control

- Fathers must discipline in a context of humble compassion and affirmation of the child. Doing other wise risks violating Ephesians 6:4

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

- Fathers must exemplify humility before their children in discipline:

James 4:6 God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble

- “I need the death of Christ for my sins just as much as you.”
- “I have sinned in countless ways against the Lord.”
- “I am no better than you or anyone” (cf. Rom 3:23).
- “I need the Lord’s discipline just as much as you.”
- Lots of gospel

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<sup>9</sup> Douglas Wilson, *Future Men: Raising Boys to Fight Giants*, 28.

➤ Consequences of not disciplining biblically

- Eli's failure to "rebuke" the disobedience of his sons brought judgment.

1 Samuel 3:13 "For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them."

- David's failure to "cross" Adonijah

1 Kings 1:5-6 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him. <sup>6</sup> His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?" And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.

c. Fathers center the home life around Scripture (Deut 6:6-9)

Context (the Shema):

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!  
<sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These words, which I am commanding you today, **shall be on your heart.**

<sup>7</sup> You shall **teach them diligently** to your sons and **shall talk of them** when  
you sit in your house  
and when you walk by the way  
and when you lie down  
and when you rise up.

<sup>8</sup> **You shall bind them** as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

<sup>9</sup> **You shall write them** on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- First, dads are commanded to love God with every fiber of their being (v. 5)
- Then, dads are commanded to slow-simmer their own hearts in Scripture: “..shall be on your heart”

- Consequently, dads are to diligently teach Scripture to their “sons”

“Teach” - **inculcate**, teach by rote, impress, formally, repeat, say again, teach information or behaviors to a student... a focus on “sharpening” the student to be potent for action, as a sharp blade is able to cut...(DBL).

- The idea of “diligently”: from a sincere heart; eagerness; thoroughly; frequently
- Teaching can be “talking of them”: heart-to-heart conversation; discussion; asking good questions; listening; correcting; shepherding; encouraging
- Where and when talking about Scripture?
  - In the house
  - Walking by the way (what way?)
  - Lying down (at bed time)
  - Rising up (in the morning)
  - Point being: Dad leads in saturating the home and the child’s life with Scripture.
- Peter Craigie on vv. 8-9: “Whether taken literally or metaphorically, the signs described in vv. 8-9 indicate that the individual (v. 8), and his community (v. 9) were to be distinguished in their character by obedience to the commandments as a response of love for God.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Peter Craigie, *The Book of Deuteronomy (NICOT)*, 170.

d. 3 Actions of Fathering (1 Thess 2:11)

1 Thessalonians 2:11 Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children

- “exhorting” - to call alongside; a strong appeal; to call out the correct way; not suggesting, but calling people to adopt suitable action in life
  
- “encouraging” - inspiring someone to continue the good and right course of action
  
- “imploring” - urging; solemnity and earnestness with which the appeal is made; comes from a word which means to “invoke a witness, to declare, to insist”
  
- Paul mentions that these 3 actions are a must in pastoring and fathering

e. Give Me Your Heart

Proverbs 23:26–28 Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways. <sup>27</sup> For a harlot is a deep pit and an adulterous woman is a narrow well. <sup>28</sup> Surely she lurks as a robber, and increases the faithless among men.



f. The Prodigal Son

**\*\*The point of this text is to illustrate God the Father's extraordinary compassion on sinners who repent.**

- His father had saved an inheritance to leave for him (v. 12)
- The demand for the inheritance was equivalent to asking for his father's death (v. 12)
- In the slop of his sin, his father came to mind: how his father took care of his employees (v. 17)
- In the slop of his sin, despite having wished that his father was dead, he knew his father was someone with whom he could still speak and request forgiveness (vv. 18-19)
- His father saw him, ran, hugged, and kissed him (v. 20), despite the shame this would bring in an ancient-east context.
- This indicates that the father spent many nights on the porch, as it were, looking, praying, and hoping for his son's return.
- The father eagerly forgives him and lavishes him with love that instant (vv. 22-24)
- No matter what a child does, that father has his son in his heart; praying; waiting on the Lord; wrestling; loving: "love hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:7b-8).

**4. What Dads Can and Cannot Do for Their Children**

**a. Dads Cannot Save their Kids**

- i. Salvation is a gift granted from God  
Jonah 2:9 "Salvation is from the Lord."
- ii. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit

John 3:3, 8 “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God...<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’”

John Calvin: “Although fathers ought diligently to form their children under a system of holy discipline, yet let them remember that they will never succeed in attaining the object aimed at, save by the pure and special grace of God.”

Charles Spurgeon: “The most careful and prayerful father cannot be held accountable for having wicked sons, if he has done his best to instruct them. The most anxious and tearful mother cannot be blamed if her daughter dishonours the family, provided her mother has done her best to train her up in the right way.”

**b. Dads Can (Must), by God’s Grace, Guide, Love, Lead, Pray for, and Shape their Children in a Manner Pleasing to God**

**i. Dads must diligently teach Scripture to their kids:**

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.<sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

**ii. Dads must not leave their kids to fend for themselves in life and godliness**

Proverbs 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”

**iii. Dads must lovingly train and discipline their children biblically**

Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

**iv. Dads must regularly pray for their kids**

1 Chronicles 29:18, 19 “O Yahweh...give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do *them* all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision.”