

Title: What is a Father Suppose to Do?

Text: Eph 5:25-33

The secular world is finally discovering what is wrong. As you know, there are many atticules that are appearing on the break down of the family. And some socialogist are predicting that in the next century, family life as we know it now will not exist. And that is the way some are hoping that it will go, strange as that seems. [I have said often, and I say with much more confidence today then I did earilier, that the entire situation in the marriage and in the family could be absoluetly turned around, if we realized that the burden of turning it around rest upon the leadership of the fathers and the husbands.

One secular writer recently said, "American in this century has become a matriarchal society. That means that everything is dependent upon the mother. She is the lover. She is the worker at the home. She takes care of the kids. And the man, modern man, has retreated into the secular world, his business now dominates ^{ad vants} what he is totally concerned about. So when he comes home from work, the family must endure him.

Well, I am glad that they are starting to write about it. Because it has been going on a long time.

on my father's Day I want to
Now, we want to come this morning to the Word of God and ask ourselves the question: WHAT ARE FATHERS SUPPOSE TO DO? What are husbands suppose to do according to the Bible? And I just want to give you four things. This may be a review for some of you. Yet, as one man said to me once when I was teaching on the role of the father. He said, "Pastor, you are right on. It just came 25 years to late." So, I guess I can't say what I am going to say to much or too often. There is a great need to understand the role of the Father and the husband and what God says we are suppose to do.

Take your Bibles and please turn to Ephesians chapter 5. I want to give you four things, four basic things, that according to the Bible, Fathers are suppose to do.

Number one, is to love their wives. *They are to Love Their Wives*

I get tired of our T.V. ~~report~~ and articles that I read speaking of the woman as the ~~the~~ lover..The woman, some ~~how~~ through her wonderful ways of manipulation, and attraction, somehow manipulates this blob who sits at home in that chair.....to be of good courage, and considers the value of her glorious looks and ~~she~~ some how motivates himself to give her a little affections....

Now, I get tired of that. I think it is an insolent. I think ~~it~~ is an attack on what the Bible says about men. You see, the Bible teaches that man ~~is~~ ^{is} to be the romanticist in the home. Man is to be the romantic lover. Man is to start things. The wife is ~~simply~~ ^{to be} the responder. We got this thing all fould up.

The Bible says that husbands are to love their wife. I have a little sign ^{not sure to have} in my office that goes like this: THE GREATEST THING THAT A FATHER CAN DO FOR HIS CHILDREN IS TO LOVE THEIR MOTHER. And that is true.

Ephesians 5 verse 25 says.....(READ Vs 25- 33) Prayer

Men are to love their wives. I would like to suggest to you that there are five basic principles involved in loving your wife. If you are loving your wife, the way God says in His Word, then these 5 principles ought to be true of ~~you~~ ^{you in your life}

(1B) One, sacrificial giving. You cannot discribe Biblical love of a husband for his wife apart from sacrificial giving. The Bible says in Vs 25 "Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her." The sacrifice of our time, our ~~engery~~ ^{pay} our resoures, everything that is involved in that ~~that~~ statement when we love our wives. We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church. ~~And if we love Jesus,~~ ^{And if we call ourselves church} we will love our wives ~~in~~ in that manner. Sacrificial giving.

(2B) Secondly, is the matter of personal concern for her needs. Vs 28 says that a husband ought to love his wife as he loves his own body." We find the words dnourishe and cherishe in Vs 29..Personal concern for her needs.

It is tradic ^{some} what wives say about husbands in terms of personal needs. A classic illustration comes from a lady who had been married for 30 years. Much of that time doubting her husbands love....

She came to a very critical ~~point~~^{Point} in her life. She had cancer. She was put in the hospital. There was a long list of medical bills and problems and all of that. Eventually, there was nothing they could do for her. So, they told her that she would just have to go home. And her husband would have to care for her. When he was confronted with this, he refused.

And this lady wrote of how her heart was broken...The tradgy of seeing a man that she loved, turn his back on her, in her hour of need. A man who refused to minister to her needs....

Well, listen, ~~friends~~^{Men}, those seeds of decay are planted early in a marriage. When we do not care, ~~we~~, for the personal needs of our wife, material, physical, spiritual, the whole ball of wax, when we don't care, we are planting serious seeds of decay. *is it not*

Many wives have bad self-images, they are depressed, discouraged, they hurt in side. Why? Because husbands do not care about their needs.

They are left to defend for themselves. It is no wonder ~~wives~~^{women} fight back It is no wonder women are doing what they are doning today..WHY?...Because men are not exercising spiritual leadership. ~~They~~ Men are not concerned about the needs of their own wives.

men ~~can~~^{when} you talk about loving your wife, ~~if you do not care~~^{it means you are caring} for her personal needs?
?

(3) A third thing, is the matter of verbal kindness.....

Turn over to Colassions chapter 3 verse 19....What does it mean to love your wife?...According to the Bible it involves verbal kindness. Colossians 3 makes that very clear in Vs 19...."Husbands,love your wives." And then we have a qualifing statement as to what it means. "Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them."

The word ^{Embittered} means "sharp" or "to cut". It is referring to cutting remarks. Tearing people down by what we say. We do not love our wives when we make cracks about them; and tear them down as to their appearance or their personality or their talents. We do not show love when that happens. *In fact* You are causing a deep barrer to exist between the two of you, if that kind of things goes on...

I remember once when

~~The other day~~ I was getting my hair cut. And in the barber shop a group of men were discussing their wives. Ladies, I am sure you would have enjoyed the discussion...like a whole in the head.

One fellow was referring to his wife as "the old lady." I sort-off smiled because he was a man in his late 20's. I thought maybe he married a 70 year old woman. But, he keep referring to her as "his old lady."

Another ~~man~~ ^{guy} was saying that his wife always fould up things. No matter what she tried to do, she goofed it up. He just ripped her apart.

Another guy said, "Hay, you are to be thankful. You aught to see what I live with." This is what they were ~~saying~~.

Well, the barber ~~knows~~ ^{knows} that I am a preacher. And so he said, "Bill, what do you think about all of this."

I said, "Well, I don't identify with it."

He said, "Why is that"?

I said, "Man, ~~I have~~ ^{I am married to} the sweetest ~~wife~~ ^{woman} since Eve."...You see, I don't know what she was like before the fall. That is why I say that"...(HA)

But, I said, "I ~~have~~ ^{am married to the} sweetest ~~woman~~ since Eve."

And he said, "No kidding! What's she like?"..... You wouldn't believe the change in conversation.....

Now, look! A lot of it is in our hearts, men. It is in our hearts. Let's be honest.

Loving your wife. Do you really love her from the heart? Then you are not going to be attacking her, and going along with every body else in their remarks. ^{But} You are going to consistently build her up in everybodies eyes. The important thing is what you say when she is not around, as well as what you say when she is around. Building her up. Encouraging her. Thanking God for her. ~~Being sweet to her.~~

Verbal kindness is a part of loving your wife....That is what Colossians 3:19 is saying.

(40) Now, ^{and} the next principle that I am going to give you is something that I believe we must start addressing from the pulpit. ^{Now me} This fourth principle must exist if you say you love your wife. ^{Faithfulness} And that is sexual satisfaction and ^{Loyalty...}

Hebrew 13

There is no question about this. Turn to the book of Proverbs chapter 5, please. ^{Hebrew chapter 13} Proverbs chapter 5 and notice verse 18... ^{4 Hebrew 13:4} Proverbs 5:18

(Read 5:18-20) (Read 13:4)

I don't think there is any question about what is being said there. I don't think there is any way to run around it, cop-out of it, or change it, or re-interpret it. I believe it is obvious what is being said.

If we love our wives, ~~then~~ ^{faithful to} we, according to the Bible, are going to be satisfied with her, sexually, at all times...

And the Bible says that there is going to be the kind of loyalty that both Genesis and Ephesians says will cause us to leave Father and mother, and cling, ~~literally~~ Literally, "glue ourselves to our wives."...

And then we become one flesh. Total commitment....

I suppose some of you, being the product of the current generation and thinking, probably thinks this goes back to the nineteenth century....

But, regardless of what society is saying, regardless of what you think, immorality will definitely tear your marriage apart. It will cause emotional, psychological, social problems. And it can cause physical problems. Your ability to respond to each other, even if you don't know what the other person is doing, your ability to respond is caused by an infinite God who by His Holy Spirit produces that love in your heart. Do you think that God is going to violate his word? ^{Noway. You Follow} ~~violate~~ his principles and ^{He will} reward you with the same kind of love that meets each others needs? When you are violating his Word?....You have another thing coming...

You are hurting your ability to enjoy each other physical, to have the kind of relationship that both of you sincerely want and need ^{and desire}

This is a very important matter. It is a serious issue. And do not mistake the time we give to this point as underestimating its value, for the whole message would deal with this one point. ^{Men, if you say you love your w.f.o. you will be faithful and loyal to her}

If you love your wife, it doesn't make any difference that she looks like someone that you think is beautiful. The world is constantly letting us know how unattractive we are, you know that? And why we need those products to help us look better, right?

I don't know whether or not you have tried some of those produces. But they really don't help. They really don't. One day I used Ultrar Bright, somebody thought I had bad breath.....

Look people, the world is playing game with a very serious matter. The tragedy is that some of us are guilty. NOW, WHAT DO WE DO?

Listen, God is a fantastic God. He is able to rebuild your life. He applies forgiveness and healing. But I want to tell you something that you are going to have to do.

One, don't run away from it. Two, don't hide from this issue and hope that no one finds out. You are going to have to deal with it. You are going to have to confess it. God says that if you don't deal with it, you will not prosper. ..Forgiveness, Yes!...But I don't know if you realize this or not but Confession and repentence in the christian life are essential for God to apply praictical forgiveness to the situation.

Positional I am already forgiven from the beniality of sin because I am trusting Christ. But practical forgiveness is based on confession and repentance in my heart.

Yes, God can heal....Yes, God can pick up the broken pieces. Yes, God can ~~restore~~ restore love in your life...BUT, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO COME CLEAN You are going to have to get right with God.

So, many of us are coping out, acting like that isn't necessary. ~~Acting~~ Acting like everthing can be alr@ight. And the tragedy is that there are many people attending church, hearing God's Word, and yet are living in sin, according to the standards of the Bible.

Some people continue in immorality thinking that because God is a God of grace it is O.K....

I warn you in love, the book of Jude says that there will be teachers at the end time who will be dedicating their teaching to prove to you that the grace of God allows immorality.

2 Peter 2 also says that. That that will characterize the last days, befsre the Lord comes. People will try to persude you because God is a God of grace and love and forgiveness that you can keep on doing wmmorality.

The Bible says that their damnation is just. Because of that teaching. Yes, we believe in grace...Yes, we believe forgiveness. But Christian friend let me remind you that that is based on confession and repentence in your life. It is based on you getting right with God. Not covering it over, Not hiding from God. Not trying to act like nothing is wrong. You must deal with it. God is a gracious God. And when we are humble before him and realize we need him to restore our marriage and to restore our love, HAY... God will work.

(5B) The fifth principle which is essential in loving your wife is ~~continue~~ continually honor and respect. I believe it ought to be constant in a man's life. Turn to the book of 1 Peter chapter 3. I Peter chapter 3....

A man that is walking with God, ^{A man who says He is Christ} and is spirit-filled, when he is fulfilling his responsibilities, you are going to find that man being a loving man. ~~He is going to have~~ ^{And that love will be evident because he will have} a respectful and honoring attitude toward his wife.

He will not tear her down. When ever I find a man who is running his wife down, I don't there is a problem with his ability to love. And his understanding of the love of the Holy Spirit. God's man isn't like that. He doesn't tear ^{his wife} women down. ^{God} God's man, according to the Bible, is building up....honoring...respecting... ^{her wife} women.

1 Peter 3:7 says "You husbands likewise!" The word "likewise" takes us back to verse 1. "In the same way you wives be submissive," now husbands "likewise". You see, there is an area in which the husband is also submissive to the wife. Just as the wife is to the husband. Submissive in what sense? Willing to submit to her by honoring and respecting her. Recognizing her, as the verse ⁷ says, as a weaker vessel since she is a woman; and grant her honor....instead of trying to over power her either verbally or physically... "Grant her honor as a fellow-heir." Notice the equality...that you have as believers. "A fellow-heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." Or, literally "cut-off".

God is not responding to your prayer ^{over} life, when you are not honoring and respecting your wife.

Now, these are principles telling us that we ought to love our wives.
WHAT ARE FATHERS SUPPOSE TO DO? First, love your wife. '

(2A) Number two, we asre to discipline our children.

Now, let me ask you something. When you discipline your children do you always do the the right thing?....If there is someone here who has always done the right thing, then I would like you to come in for counseling concerning lieing...(HA)

Listen, half the time you don't know whether you are doing what is right. But, there are several problems that exist in this area.

There are some fathers who believe that they really love their children because you don't disciple them. I warn you in love about that. That is not what the Bible says. Parents are to disciple their children. The Bible teaches it. I am not going to talk today about HOW...Although I think you ought to study the Proverbs and learn that a rod was used.

People say, "What do you mean? Just beat your kid ovaer the head?"... No!!!!...The Bible says in Proverbs "when you apply the rod ^{to} the back of a fool. That back has a middle. It is located between the bottom of the feet and the top of the head.

Now, on most of us the middle is the divinely selected place for discipline. (HA) We call it the bottom... Now, some of you might have to practice a little bit. But hit the bottom.

I know that when kids get older discipline changes and becomes more resirective and so forth. You need to talk with them and deal with the issues. But, discipline, forlks must remain. It is a very important priinciple.

Ephesians 6:4 says that we are to bring up our children in the disciplian and instruction of the Lord.

Now, I would like to give you three principles about discipline.

(1B) Frist, do it with control . Ephesians 6:4 also says, "Fathers don't provoke your children to anger." ...Any Dad not convicted there?.....

Now, I don't believe that means just get mad. I don't believe it is wrong to say tñat you got mad when you disciplined them. Some people do.

I would like to ~~find~~ find the father who really disciplines his kids.
And he does it like this?

*(Silly in a
Sweet Sucky
Voice)*

I am about to apply discipline to your bottom. It is one of the greatest joys of my life. I can hardly wait. I am so thrilled and the sweetness of the Lord is in my life. So, come here while I really give it to you. (HA)...

Nh, no....Folks you know that is ridiculous. Any man that cannot get mad when something is wrong, I say to you that something is wrong with him.

The Bible says to be angry about sin. If something is really wrong, and there is disobedience and you are not mad, maybe that is what is wrong in your home. ~~Maybe~~ Maybe that is why they don't know the difference between right and wrong in your home. Maybe that is why they are putting up with sin. Oh, I believe there ought to be anger against sin. [But there is a problem here It deals with motivation. Provokeing is motivating your child to get anger. To get mad so that you feel justified and righteous in what you are doing. Oh, there is a real difference there, isn't there?

*When you
discipline*

Do it with control. You may be mad. Maybe you ought to be if something ~~is~~ has been done that is wrong. But don't unleash that upon your children. You have to make a distinction between getting mad at what is wrong and loving people. And that is not always easy to do, is it?

But It is very important that we discipline with control. Colossians 3:21 warns us "Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they lose heart."

Some times children get depressed and they feel that they can never do anything right, and they can never do anything that pleases you. Some times the discipline is not correctly planned. It happens every day for every little things...You say, "Well, you don't know my kids."...They need disciplin every day..."

one

Wait a minute. Maybe there is something wrong with the way you do it, and that is why you have to do it so many times.

And maybe you are disciplin before you correctly involuate the situation and need for it. I believe in discipline, but I believe you need to be very carefully. And you should think about the situation.

Sometimes I have said ~~it~~ to my wife: "You know, I don't know why, but I believe one of our kids needs a spaking..."

She says, "What have they done wrong?" I don't know. But I just feel it

Now, maybe you have never gone through that. But if you have been a parent for some some time, you know what I mean.

(28) But, friends, discipline with control. And of course, discipline with love. Proverbs 13 says, ^{Reverent is T} "Don't discipline, you kids, you hate them." Now, you may think you love your kids. But the Bible says that you hate them. Because discipline builds vitality. At least you hate what God might do through your child, if it had discipline.

Leadership is built on discipline... authority is built on discipline... a person's effectiveness in life is built on discipline.

I like what one collage kid once said, "I grew up in a home where my parent divorced at an early age." He said, "I have never been spanked in all of my life." But he then said, "since I have become a Christian, I know what I need in my life. I need discipline. And I am praying that God will bring His kind of discipline into my life so that I will be the kind of man that God wants me to be."

That ^{young man} ~~is~~ is going to go a long way with that kind of attitude. So many of us ~~resent~~ discipline. We don't want it in our life.

Listen, the amount of influence and authority one has in his life is ~~by~~ directly related to the amount of submission to authority. You want to exercise influence on others? Then you will need to learn to submit to others.

If you are a young person, here, and resenting the discipline of your parents, you ought to get on your knees and thank God that ^{Love you enough to} they discipline you. Even if you think they are wrong in it.

Children living with un-believing parents should submit to ~~their~~ their unbelieving parents..... You don't need to lie. You should never lie. You don't need to violate your commitment to the Lord. But, when your parents discipline you, accept it. It is from God. Even though you might not think what is done is right. Your role is to submit. In the very submission, alone, God will reward you in leadership in the future....

3B

Discipline builds vitality in a persons life. But, reember, your discipline should ^{be done with love} also, be with purpose. With control. Do it with love. ^{Thudly} But do it with purpose.

In Proverbs 23:13 there is a tremendous promise. It says, "Do not hold back discipline from the child. Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.(That is encouragement). You shall beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from the grave."

That is a fantastic verse. Discipline is related to their ability to respond to God. It is protective and proventive against future consequences that come to the unrighteousn.Fantastic.....

Discipline gives to the child a heart of response toward the Lord... Look over to chapter 29. Vs 15 says "The rod and reproof give wisdom."

By the way, always put those two together. Some parants just use a rod and they don't have any reproof. There is no verbal explanation. No verbal attempts to correct. That is a mistake.

Other parants just give the verbal and forget the rod. That is also wrong. The rod and the reproof give wisdom. "But the child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother"? ~~What a shame~~

Vs 17.."Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul."

You say, "Hay, it is no delight to spank my kid." But let me share something with you from experience. In time that verse will come true. I know. They will delight your soul.

O.K. Men...We are to love our wivaes...We are to discipline our kids... (3) And third, Fathers are to teach their children. Now, I have learned that ~~it is~~ harder to teach your children then it is to discipline them. But Fathers have this responsibility. We are to teach our kids.

Turn to Deut chapter 6, please. Deut chapter 6. This chapter deals with instructions to Jewish fathers in teaching their sons. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN?

A survey was taken back in ¹⁹⁷⁹ ~~79~~ dealing with the time a Father spends with his son during any given week....Do you know what the survy showed?....

The average father spends 5 minutes and 30 seconds per week with his son.....When I read that, I could hardly believe it. I hope that isn't true of any man in this church. 5 minutes and 30 seconds a week, average a father spending time with the children? And we wonder what is wrong with our families?...

(Read Deut. 6:6-9)

Let me just share these principles...

(1) One, if you are going to teach your child there must be personal dedication, first of all, to God's word in your life.

You know, as well as I do that if you tell your children to believe something that you yourself don't, they will not be committed to it.

Personal dedication to what you are teaching is vital. { God said that the words should be first in your heart. Then you are to teach.

one if you are to teach your child there must be
(2) Second, principle, is consistence in how, when, and where you teach.

Now, some of us have the wrong idea here. Some believe you gather your children together once a week and you lecture them for two hours.....

Oh, know, that is not the way. The way is constant. It is a whole life style. When the situation comes up. Say, you are walking along the road, and your child ask a question..TEACH THEN.... apply God's word then...Don't wait.. Consistency and ~~the~~ diligente....Teaching all of the time...When ever you can. Where ever you can....

second
(3) A third thing about teaching is brought out in Proverbs 22:6 And that involves direction as to the way they should go. It says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

I can't tell you how many parants have brought that verse to my attention when they wanted to talk about a rebellious child. May I share this with you?

When you talk about training up in the way they should go, you are ~~training~~ talking about the way the Word of God tells them to go. If you are a school teacher and say, "I am going to train my child to be a shhool teacher."

That is not what Proverbs 22:6 is all about. It is not forcing your children to take your views, or follow you ideas.

Oh, no, It is saying, the way God wants them to go. That is the way any child should go. When you train them in that way, when they are old they will not depart from it....

Listen, if you train your child the way God says, does that guarantee that they will never rebel?.....Absolutely |not.....WHY?.....Because every child has their own sin ~~nature~~ nature. Just in case you didn't know that...

You can do everything right...You can do all right...You can teach the Word of God, right.....And your child can rebell.....WHY.....Because they have a sin nature.

Ezekiel tells us that parents are not held responsible for the children's sins....But, parents are held responsible for their sins...which may involve a lack of discipline...a lack of teaching...a lack of love and etc.

But, remember your child has a sin nature. And that sin nature can cause them to rebel.

But the promise is that if you have taught them in the way they should go, you have taught them God's will, and you have said, "Listen, the important thing in life is to be in God's will and to be what God wants you to be, the Bible says that when they are old they will never depart from that...

That is a fantastic promise.Tremendous...

O.K. We are to love our wives...We are to discipline our children.... And we are to teach our children....

(4) There is one thing missing. You ask, "What are Fathers , husbands, suppose to do, Deut. 6:5 ^{brought} it out. And that is that you are to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

None of this will ~~work~~ work, men, until there is that dedicated, committed, loving heart for God. Deut. 6:5 reads with all your heart... with all your soul....with all your might.".....

Boy, I read that verse and I say "No way"....The Bible says "When you are weak, then you are strong." When you learn to depend upon Jesus, then you can...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART.....

^{The Book} In Hebrews ^{We learn that} the heart is the controlling factor, It thinks, it decides..
The results are often emotions.....

But it is more than just emotions. Don't confuse the word "heart" with today's modern interpretation of feelings and emotions. Emotions flow out of what the heart decides to do. The heart is the central core of man, biblical. When I say that I love God with all of my heart, it means that there is a central commitment within me to God, himself. When everything is said and done, when all the pressure is there, when all the problems that I am facing are there, there is ~~still~~ ^{still} deep down in my heart a total commitment to the Lord. And even though I have a lot of problems and pressures and failures and sins, there is still that commitment. It is there...

Do you love God with all of your heart?

And your soul. ^{meaning} Your total personality..

Your might?....The energy of your strength....All totally committed to God, himself.

Listen, men, when that is true, ~~when you are seeking first the Kingdom of God~~ all the rest will fall into place. We will love our wives... ^{as God's wants us to} We will be able to correctly discipline and teach our children as God wants us to....

And commitment begins ~~when~~ when you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to come into your life..... ^{Oh, how we need real men. Men who are sold out for Jesus Christ.}
Let us close with prayer