Christian Fathers Are Needed In America

Intro: The magic of childhood is being destroyed because of the lack of Christian fathers. The old saying is accurate: “As the home goes so goes the nation.” It is equally true, “As the home goes, so goes the church.” Additionally, “As the father goes, so goes the home. What about father’s?

I. F—Faithful
   A. The way to have faithful children is for both parents to be faithful.
      1. Some statistics:
      2. Where both parents are faithful 93% of the children remain faithful.
      3. Where only one parent is faithful 73% of the children remain faithful.
      4. If parents attend occasionally, only 6% of the children are faithful.
   B. Abraham was a Godly father.
      1. He was a man of faith; Gen. 15:6 “And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”
      2. His faith was expressed in obedience; Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
      3. God knew Abraham would command his children; Gen. 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”

II. A—Available
   A. 40% of children live in a home where their father is absent.
   B. Many godly leaders have lost their children to the faith.
      1. Eli’s sons; 1 Sam. 2:12 “Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.”
      2. Samuel’s sons; 1 Sam. 8:3 “And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.”

III. T—Training
   A. God placed the responsibility for training children on fathers.
      1. Deu. 6:6-9 “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”
      2. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
      3. Father’s must take their children to every service of the church.
         b. If only the mother is regular in attending church, and the father attends irregularly, then only 3% of their adult children will attend church regularly, and 38% of their adult children will not practice their religion all.
c. If the father never attends church, even if the mother attends church regularly, only 2% of their adult children will attend church and 60% will not attend church at all.

d. If the father attends church regularly, but the mother attends irregularly, then 38% of their adult children will be regular churchgoers.

e. And amazingly, if the father attends regularly and the mother never attends church, then 44% of their adult children will be regular churchgoers!

B. In the absence of the father, the mother takes this responsibility

1. 2 Tim. 1:5 “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”

2. 2 Tim. 3:14-15 “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of; knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

IV. H—HEAD

A. The father is the head of the home; Eph. 5:22-33

B. As the head of the home, the father will not:

1. Be a dictator.

2. Be a weakling
   a. Like Adam who followed his wife into sin
   b. Gen. 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

3. Will take responsibility for his children’s spiritual life; Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

4. Will work to provide for his family; 1 Tim. 5:8 “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

V. E—EXAMPLE

A. Jesus is the great example for Christians; 1 Pet. 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”

B. Fathers should set the proper example for their children.

1. They set an example whether good or bad.

2. David was a poor example for his children.
   a. He committed adultery with Bathsheba
      1. 2 Sam. 11:3-4 “And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? ‘And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.”

      2. Amnon raped his half-sister, Tamar; 2 Sam. 13:11, 14 “And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.... 14Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.”
b. He murdered Uriah
   (1) 2 Sam. 11:15 “And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.”
   (2) Absalom killed Amnon and tried to kill David; 2 Sam. 13:28-29 “Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king’s sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.”

VI. R—REWARD
   A. Money and wealth cannot buy the peace of knowing that one’s children are faithful.
   B. Parent’s desires:
      1. They want their children to be healthy physically, but often give no (or very little) thought to their spiritual health.
      2. They want their children to have a good education, but often give no (or very little) thought to training them for eternity.
   C. The reward of a faithful father is to have his children with him in heaven.

Conclusion: A Christian home begins with Christian parents. Fathers, will you live faithful to God? Fathers will you lead your children to God? The future of your home depends on your faithfulness to God.