

Liberty Commentary June 22, 2009

With Fathers Day just past and the thoughts of fatherhood fresh upon our minds, we would do well to reflect upon the awesome, God given responsibilities of fathers.

Many, if not most of the problems in our society can be traced to irresponsible fathers. When fathers will not lead and be responsible husbands, fathers, and stay true to their commitments, our society is affected negatively. Statistics indicate that 63% of youth suicides occur in fatherless homes. 90% of homeless and runaway youths are from fatherless homes. 85% of children exhibiting behavioral problems come from fatherless homes. 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. 75% of adolescent patients in drug abuse centers come from fatherless homes. 70% of youth in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes. 85% of all youths imprisoned come from fatherless homes.

The Bible says in Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

There are ten qualities that every father should exhibit if we are to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- 1) Be found faithful. I Corinthians. 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.” Fathers must be faithful to their vows and be promise keepers and good stewards of the most sacred vow you can make to any human being, which is being faithful to your wedding vows.
- 2) Fathers must live a Spirit filled, Spirit anointed Christian life that produces the character of Christ in our lives. Ephesians 5:18, “And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.”
- 3) Wisdom. James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraided not; and it shall

be given him.” Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. If we fathers do not take the time to learn the scriptures and glean biblical knowledge of God we cannot apply his word to our hearts.

4) Prayer. James 5:16-18 “ The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availed much”. We must consistently be praying for our children, families, and ask God to give us wisdom and strength to live a good example before them.

5) Obedience. I Samuel 15:22 “to obey is better than sacrifice..” Sometimes we fathers get all caught up in the culture of the day thinking that we need to make a lot of money and provide for the family so we can have all the material possessions that the world can offer. Fathers, our allegiance, focus and obedience needs to be on obeying God and instilling in our children and family an obedient heart for God.

6) Discipline. I Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. It takes discipline to get up each morning and pray and read your bible. It takes discipline to lead your family in the way of the Lord.

7) Be joyful. Philippians 3:1, “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord...” Fathers, there will be days when your responsibilities as fathers will leave you drained physically, emotionally and spiritually if you do not keep the joy of the Lord fresh in your hearts daily.

8) Contentment. Philippians 4:11, “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” We live in a throw away society. If we don’t like what we have today we just throw it away and get a different one. When we are in a right relationship with God we will be content with such things that God has provided for us.

9) Thankful. Colossians 3:15, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” As a Christian father, no matter what comes your way be thankful because ultimately God will use it for your good. As

Christians we have the promise that God will ultimately turn our challenges into triumphs if we will just live for Him and love Him. 10) Vision: Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision the people perish...” The word vision here means a love for the word of God. Where there is no love for the word of God, where there is no proclamation of the word of God, where there is no living out the word of God, our impact as effective Christian fathers will be greatly diminished.

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