

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 6:1-4**.
- B. Roy H. Enoch (6-19-94).
- C. Poets and other writers have been generous in heaping praise and glory upon mothers.
 - 1. Godly mothers cannot be given too much praise and recognition.
 - 2. Fathers have been given far fewer eulogies and public honor.
 - a. Fathers are often thought of as sterner, ready to fight the battles of life, and to take disappointments without a word or a tear.
 - b. Fathers have been judged to be hard, unspiritual creatures without as much feeling.
 - c. Perhaps they do not have less feeling, but express it less or in different ways. They are not inferior, but simply different.
- D. When God selected a figure to impress us w/His love for wayward children, He chose the figure of a father and husband.
 - 1. In, OT God pictures Himself as the faithful husband, and Israel's as an idolatrous wife.
 - 2. In the story of the Prodigal Son, Jesus pictures God as a loving and forgiving father (Lk. 15:11-32).
- E. The father's role in making a home successful and happy is equally as important as the mother's, but vastly different and we want to study the role of Xian fathers today.

I. THE CHRISTIAN FATHER IS TO LIVE AND CARE FOR HIS FAMILY.

- A. Husbands are to love their wives "even as X loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).
 - 1. There's not a single incident involving X and His church where His love for it could be questioned.
 - 2. A XIAN husband and father is never untrustworthy with his sincere affection and responsibility to his family.
 - 3. He may not be as emotional or romantic in expressing his love as his wife or mother, but his love is just as stable and secure.
 - 4. It is this stability and security of love that makes the wife and children confidence with peace of mind.
- B. One of the primary expressions of a father's love for his family is his willingness to work hard to provide for the family.
 - 1. One of the most repulsive sights is a father who will not work to support his family.
 - 2. Another repulsive sight is a father who is selfish with what he makes and spends much on himself and his pleasures.
 - 3. The XIAN father works hard to provide, and puts his family's needs before his own.

II. THE CHRISTIAN FATHER REALIZES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING THE "HEAD OF THE FAMILY."

- A. Every institution must have a head that is responsible for its efficient management.
 - 1. God has placed man as responsible for the family, to provide for them and to train them to be responsible.
 - 2. It is not being "boss" w/o responsibility, as some do.
 - 3. Husbands must be willing to accept the responsibility as decision-maker and spiritual leader.
- B. No effective head of any organization will be inaccessible.
 - 1. The father may have to be away from the family most of the day to make a living, but he should be available to them when he is at home.
 - 2. Sometimes fathers sit in front of TVs or with a newspaper in front of their faces and are unapproachable. This is not taking responsibility for the family.

3. Children should not have to compete with a newspaper or TV for their father's attention.
- C. Many children are emotionally starved for the affection of their fathers.
 1. This is especially true of little boys.
 2. This is why Boy Scouts has such an appeal for young boys.
 3. They should not have to look past their own father for an ideal of manhood.

III. THE CHRISTIAN FATHER IS IMPARTIAL IN DEALING W/HIS CHILDREN.

- A. We are familiar with tragic mistakes that cause great suffering when parents show partiality.
 1. Isaac was partial to Esau and Rebecca was partial to Jacob.
 2. Jacob was very partial to the two sons of Rachel, especially to Joseph.
 3. Both situations created great tragedies in their families.
- B. The same kind of effect is produced in modern families where favoritism is shown. Children are different and they should not have to compete with another in a specific area.

IV. THE CHRISTIAN FATHER IS A WORTHY EXAMPLE TO HIS FAMILY.

- A. A father who is a XIAN is honest, clean and godly in the presence of his family.
 1. The father should set the example for the family for Bible study, prayer, and worship.
 2. The father should set the example of putting the Lord's work before work and recreation.
- B. Bible stories abound of the consequences of examples of fathers upon their children.
 1. God told David that his example of adultery would bring the sword upon his house.
 - a. His son Amnon raped his half sister, Tamar.
 - b. Her brother Absalom killed Amnon.
 - c. Absalom later tried to take the kingdom from his father in a civil war: Absalom was killed.
 2. Jehoshaphat followed the example of his father Asa (1Kgs 22:43).
 3. Another bad example is Ahaziah, the son of Ahab and Jezebel (1Kgs. 22:52-53).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Fathers, the greatest thing you can give your children is a good example.
- B. It is likely that your children are looking to you as an example.
 1. Where are you leading those who follow you?
 2. They do not need many things, or great wealth.
 3. They do need a godly example to help them resist worldly temptations.
- C. When we stand in judgment, we will give account of how we treated everything God has entrusted to us: our time, possessions, opportunities, AND OUR CHILDREN.
 1. If they have not lived as they should, was it because they rejected your teaching and example, or because they followed it?
 2. Our children are probably following us: where are we leading them?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.