

FATHER
Ephesians 6:1-4

Introduction:

1. John J. Duncan Jr, a Criminal Court judge for 7 years, noted of the men who came before his court: (Report: Jan. 2009).
 - a. Ninety percent of those accused of felonies came from a home without a father in it.
 - b. Drugs and alcohol were second only to father-absent households as the leading contributors to crime.
2. Families without fathers in the home are caused by divorce, desertion, dereliction of duty and death.
3. But the biggest factor causing fatherless homes is simply that fathers were never there to begin with.
 - a. In 2009, forty percent of all births were to unwed mothers.
 - b. Eighty percent of teenagers giving birth are not married.
 - c. Sixty percent of women in their twenties giving birth are not married.
 - d. Congressman Duncan stated: “We need to tell young men over and over if they do not help raise a child they father, they are probably dooming that child to a life of crime.”
4. What does God require of fathers?
 - a. How can men be the kind of fathers God wants them to be?
 - b. A simple acrostic using “father” helps provide the answer.

Discussion:

- I. “F” STANDS FOR FAITHFUL - TO THEIR MOTHER.
 - A. God’s plan is for a father to be married to the mother of his children before the children are conceived.

1. Adam and Eve were married before it was said: “Now Adam knew Eve, his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain” (Genesis 2:24; 4:1).
 2. Adultery and fornication head the list of works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).
- B. God’s plan is for a father to love the mother of his children as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25).
1. His love caused him to die for the church.
 2. A boy learns how to treat his wife by seeing how his father treats his mother.

II. “A” STANDS FOR AUTHORITY - AN AUTHORITY FIGURE.

- A. God recognized a father’s authority when He said of Abraham:

“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” (Genesis 18:19).

- B. God charged fathers with the discipline of their children.

1. Solomon wrote: “Chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying” (Prov.19:18).
2. An elder must but be “one who rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity” (1 Timothy 3:4).

- C. On Father’s Day in 1994, William Safire’s column was titled: “What Fathers Want on This Day.”

“We want our intrinsic authority back. This essential prerogative of fatherhood has been stolen from us by

children who want us to be their friends, and by those children's mothers who insist on shared parentalism. Your father is certainly not your enemy, but neither is he your friend.... Motherhood is rooted in love, fatherhood in authority" (Commercial Appeal; June 19, 1994).

III. "T" STANDS FOR TEACHER - OF HIS CHILDREN.

A. The responsibility for training children spiritually rests upon fathers.

"And you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

B. David, "a man after God's own heart," failed as a father.

- 1. Absalom was David's favorite son (2 Samuel 13-19).**
- 2. Absalom killed his half-brother, Amnon, in revenge.**
- 3. Absalom was exiled but David forgave him.**
- 4. Absalom used the king's favor to rebel against him.**

IV. "H" STANDS FOR HEAD - OF HIS HOME.

A. The pattern throughout the Bible is male leadership in the home and in the church.

- 1. It is rooted in the order of creation (1 Timothy 2:13).**
- 2. The husband is the head of the wife in the same way Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:22-24).**

B. There are two main reasons so many men have abdicated their God given role as head of their family:

- 1. They are too busy, weak, complacent or lazy to do it.**
- 2. Their wives have usurped their God-given role.**

V. “E” STANDS FOR EXAMPLE.

A. Children need a role model as a pattern for their lives.

- 1. We are more likely to turn out like our parents than anyone else.**
- 2. Children should be able to look to their father as an example of honesty, courage, and righteousness.**

B. A son wrote in a book he gave to his father on Father’s Day: “Some day I hope to be just like you.”

VI. “R” STANDS FOR REDEEMED.

A. The saved are redeemed by the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7).

B. The greatest spiritual influence on children is their parents.

- 1. If both parents are faithful, 93 % of their children were faithful.**
- 2. If only one parent is faithful, only 73% of the children were faithful.**
- 3. If parents attended church only occasionally, only 6% of children were faithful.**

Conclusion:

1. The six letters of “father” spell out six obligations of fathers.

F is for faithful to their mother.

A is for an authority figure.

T is for a teacher of his children.

H is for the head of his home.

E is for an example to his family.

R is for a redeemed individual.

2. One must be a faithful Christian to be a truly good father!

