

## ARE YOU A GODLY FATHER?

### Proverbs 4:1-14

**Introduction:** Billy Graham was quoted as saying "A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised and unnoticed and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." God intended for fathers to do more than "bring home the bacon." The Bible says that the father is to be a provider, a protector, a priest, a guide, a teacher, and a disciplinarian. Potentially, the father is the best possible teacher about God that a child can have. The father is a counterpart of God and Jesus taught that God was much like a father. Anyone who never had a loving, knowing father has a serious handicap at the point of obtaining a proper understanding of the nature and character of God.

R.G. Lee told the story of a son stricken with diphtheria and the father was in the room in isolation clothes. The boy asked why did his father have on those strange looking clothes and the father replied "to protect others." The boy asked if he was going to die and his father told him "yes, you are, are you afraid?" "No, if God is anything like you..."replied the boy.

The home is the most basic institution in our society and the responsibility for the spiritual stability of the family lies with the father.

### I. DAD, MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST!

1. It is essential if you are to be the best father.
  - There is no way to practice Christ's teachings or live as He lived unless Christ lives in you.
2. It is essential if you are to be the best husband.
3. Time spent with the family is essential. The family needs YOU, not more gadgets or material assets.

### II. DAD, BE AN EXAMPLE IN ALL THINGS!

1. A picture is worth a thousand words and videos are the method of effective teaching today. But one good example from YOU, Dad, will have a greater impact than a thousand lectures.
2. Provide that atmosphere which is conducive to the development of good character in your home.
  - Be an example in reverence and worship
  - Be an example in truthfulness in speech
  - Be an example of honesty in all legal and financial obligations.
  - Be an example in both attitude and ambitions

### III. DAD, PROVIDE PROPER DISCIPLINE

1. *Ephesians 6:4: "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*
2. *Proverbs 13:24: "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him, disciplines him promptly."*

3. *Proverbs 23:13: "Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you whip him with a rod, he will not die."*

4. *Proverbs 29:17: "Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will delight to your soul."*

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. So many fathers seek to give their families the best the world has to offer and that is not wrong in itself, but there is something much greater than that. Give your family a Godly Father/Dad who loves Jesus Christ sincerely and steadfastly and seeks to demonstrate his faith in every area of his life.
2. Fathers, Dads, right now, make whatever decisions necessary in order that your family might have the priceless benefit of a Godly Father.