

## THE DUTY OF FATHERS

TEXT – Genesis 33:4-5 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, the children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

Children are a wonderful gift and blessing from the lord. Along with the blessing comes a great deal of responsibility. As the leaders of the home, it is essential that fathers not only know what their duty is toward their children, but also that they do it.

### 1. It is a father's duty to bring his children up to know the ways of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

### 2. It is a father's duty to instruct his children in God's Word.

Deuteronomy 4:9

Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Isaiah 38:19

The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

- The responsibility to teach the children the things of God rests on the father, not the mother, or the school, or the church, or society in general.

### 3. It is a father's duty to command his children to obey God.

Deuteronomy 32:46

And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law.

I Chronicles 28:9

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

#### **4. It is a father's duty to provide for his children.**

I Timothy 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.

- Although this passage is specifically referring to caring for the widows of the home, it is applicable for all of a man's household.

#### **5. It is a father's duty to rule his children.**

I Timothy 3:4

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;..

I Timothy 3:12

Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

- Although this passage is specifically speaking to bishops and deacons, it is the duty of all fathers to rule their children. This simply means that the children recognize their father's rank and authority in the home and subject themselves to it.
- A man needs to learn how to rule "well" not just rule. Knowing how to use your authority and influence is not something you automatically know how to do. Don't be ashamed to seek wisdom and guidance from other Godly men.

#### **6. It is a father's duty to correct his children.**

Proverbs 13:24

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 19:18

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 23:13

Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Proverbs 29:17

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

- A lot of men leave the responsibility of disciplining the children to their wives. Although a mother may need to discipline when the father is not present, the father should be the one to discipline when he is home and for all big matters.

#### **7. It is a father's duty to pray for his children.**

I Chronicles 29:19

And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

- David set an example as he prayed for his son Solomon.

#### **8. It is a father's duty to tell his children about the wonderful works of God.**

Psalm 78:1-4

Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Exodus 10:2

And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the LORD.

**CONCLUSION:** Children are a wonderful blessing from the Lord. If you are a father, you need to take seriously the duty that God has given you. Search the Scriptures and learn what kind of father God wants you to be. Ask the Lord to help you be the kind of father that will raise up children to love, honor, and glorify the Lord. Lead by your example.