

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Godly Fathers Are Needed

Unfortunately, we live in a time when society tries to minimize the importance of fathers. For instance, television shows often depict dad's as being clueless, the guy who is just there taking up space, and as one who is typically not involved with making family decisions. However, the role of fathers in the home is very important, and there is an ever increasing need for godly fathers. So, let's take a look at some areas where godly fathers are needed. Starting with godly men are needed...

1) To Be The Spiritual Leaders In The Family.

Men, we are to be the spiritual leaders in our families, and the apostle Paul instructs this in Ephesians 5:23, when he says, the husband is head of the wife. Also, in Ephesians 6:4, when he writes, *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."* So, you see, we can clearly learn from these passages that men are to take the lead, and set the proper example for their families to follow. Therefore, men, may we all take heed to those inspired words of Paul, and let's all strive to live soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:12) each and every day of our lives, so that we can effectively be one who sets the proper example for our families to follow.

2) To Be A Disciplinarian In The Home.

Sadly, there are many fathers today who are so called "push-

overs" when it comes to disciplining their children, and because of that the majority of children today are growing up without any real sense of direction, without proper respect for others, and without any commendable morals to speak of at all. However, notice these words of the wise man, *"He who spares the rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly"* (Proverbs 13:24). Men, take those words to heart, and may we all who are fathers be one who appropriately instructs and disciplines our children (Proverbs 29:15), and let's likewise hold onto these words of wisdom, *"Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction"* (Proverbs 19:18).

3) To Be An Encouragement To Their Children.

Not only are godly fathers needed to be a spiritual leader in the family, and a disciplinarian in the home, but they are also needed to be an encouragement to their children. You see, as many of us already know dad's are often looked up to by their children. Therefore, dad's need to not only be setting the proper example for their children to follow, but they also need to be diligent in being an encouragement to their children. In Colossians 3:21, Paul wrote, *"Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."* Fathers, take heed to that instruction, and make and take the time to be an encouragement to your children.

4) To Love The Mother of Their Children.

One other area to point out in which godly fathers are needed is, they are needed to be one who expresses love to the mother of their children. You see, the fact of the matter is, husbands are commanded to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19). Therefore, they need to be one who fervently expresses their love to their wives, and they need to strive to be one who lives joyfully with them (Ecclesiastes 9:9). However, it is also important for fathers to show and express their love to the mother of their children, simply because one of the greatest gifts that a father can give his children is, showing and expressing his love to their mother.

Hopefully, we will all understand the importance for the need for godly fathers, and hopefully all men will strive to be godly fathers to

their children. For, fathers do play a very important role in the development of their children, and once again, we live in time when children are ever more in need of a godly fathers influence. So men, step up to the plate and always remember, *“The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him”* (Proverbs 20:7).

✍️ Brad Phillips



BE THANKFUL

I received the following in an e-mail. I do not know who wrote it but it should make us all thankful for the blessings we have. (JH)

- If you find yourself stuck in traffic; Don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.
- Should you have a bad day at work; Think of the man who has been out of work for years.
- Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; Think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.
- Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; Think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.
- Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; Think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.
- Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; Think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.
- Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.
- Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Is it I?

When Jesus told his disciples that one of them would betray Him they asked, “Is it I?” (Matthew 26:22). Of course, when we hear the truth we need to apply that truth to our own lives. However, many (maybe most of us) are ready to apply to others rather than ourselves.

When God called Ezekiel to speak His word to the Jews that were in Babylon He told Ezekiel that they were hard headed and hard hearted and would not listen to him (Ezekiel 3:7). If God knew that the people would not listen to Ezekiel why would He tell Ezekiel to speak His word to them? I think the answer is found in God's word to Ezekiel. God said, *“But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee”* (Ezekiel 2:8). God was telling Ezekiel what to do. It is so easy to tell others what they need to do or what they should do, but what about me? God said to Ezekiel, *“Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house”* (Ezekiel 2:8). Yes, the Jews were a rebellious people, but if Ezekiel refused to do what God told him to do then he was just as rebellious as the people he was told to speak to.

One of the greatest problems in our society today is the failure of individuals to accept accountability and responsibility for ones actions. It is so easy to blame others, but we need to ask, “Is it I?” and if the answer is “Yes”, then do what is necessary to make things right.

✍️ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507