

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is still not feeling well. She is dealing with anemia.

Jimmy Gray is scheduled for knee surgery on July 8th.

Betty Ragsdale is scheduled to have heart valve surgery on July 9th.

The LaValla Family is visiting in Southaven, MS this weekend.

The Simpson Family is visiting in Camden, AR this weekend.

It is the season for travel. Remember, a vacation from God is never a good idea.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

important as noted but more is needed. There must be the proper example set before your children, because example is a very powerful teaching tool. The old saying "do as I say and not as I do" will not get the job done, because your children are going to do as you do. Fathers must practice what they preach. The conflict between precept and example greatly confuses our children. The most important example of all is faithfulness to the Lord; living a godly dedicated life **1Tim 4:16**.

Fathers, how much do you love your children? You say, "that's a silly question." But, is it? Do you take your role as nourisher, protector, upholder seriously; are you shirking your responsibility to bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

(Dad would tell you that Mom is the reason my siblings and I turned out reasonably well, but he had a large part in our raising. The above teaching may seem old fashioned in our current society, but it comes directly from God's Word and it has been working successfully for centuries when properly followed. Pass this along to a young father you know. God will be pleased that you did. DLH)

Seeking His Righteousness

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My Father, On Fathers

Jerry L. Henderson

Let's consider the role of father in the family unit which God designed in the beginning. We must emphasize that this role involves a male of the species and not a female. The word "father" by its very definition shows this to be so. In Webster's first definition he says "father" means one who has begotten a child; a male parent. However, as the word is further defined we learn that there is more involved in being a father than just the ability to produce offspring. In another definition Webster defines it as one who cares for as a father might. And in Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, the word "father" is said to come from a root word signifying a nourisher, protector, upholder. So, even though the primary meaning of the word



For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

indicates the male of the species it also, as used in Scripture and in our society, implies some very grave responsibilities. It takes a “real” man as to be a father in the true sense. Obviously, because of space restraints, we cannot cover every aspect of being a father in detail, but let me make a few observations regarding the responsibilities of a father.

Some children are literally deserted by their fathers, while others are in practicality deserted because of the father's continued absence for various and sundry reasons. Some are orphans simply because of a lack of involvement in ordinary ways; fathers are present but are distant and withdrawn and leave the impression they don't want to be bothered. If a father provides his children with only the physical necessities, he provides them with no more than institutionalized children. The primary responsibility for nurturing belongs to the father **Eph 6:4**. God has always expected fathers to teach and train their children: note Abraham **Gen 18:19**; Moses **Deut 6:4-9**; and David **Psa 78:5-7**. It takes time and work to be a good father. One must begin early (even before birth) and be regular **Prov 19:18**. Don't wait till they are “old enough” **Prov 22:6**; develop your relationship with them while they are young. In a study from UCLA it was noted that the average father talks to his children 45 seconds a day. A man can not be a good father and talk to his children no more than that. Just here, let me specifically address preachers and men whose jobs involve service to the community. It becomes very easy for these fathers to become so involved in their work of helping others that they neglect their own families. This may have been the case with Eli and his neglect of his sons **1Sam 3:12-13**. A father's first responsibility is to his own family, then to those whom he may help. Fathers must learn to discipline their children with love and understanding (**Prov 29:15,17; 13:24**) and that takes a lot of communication.

Discipline or correction is not a demonstration of hatred for children as some think, but rather proof of love for children. I have heard parents say, “I love my child too much to spank them.” The truth is, if you don't spank them **when**

Store In My Heart

Ezekiel 1:1

Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Ezekiel received his messages from God while in the land of the Chaldeans with the exiled Jews. His message came before the fall of Jerusalem and was for both the exiles and those still in Judah. This was a very low period in the history of God's people, and his message of reassurance that God would renew his people would serve to lift their spirit. As we know, ultimately this renewal brought the Messiah and hope for all mankind through His death, burial and resurrection. Let such hope guide us today.

they need it you do not love them. God disciplines (chastens) children whom he loves **Heb 12:5-11**. “Spare the rod and spoil the child”; the Bible does not use this specific phrase but the principle is in many passages **Prov 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17**. You say, “but those are Old Testament passages”, well remember what Paul said in **Rom 15:4**. These Old Testament passages show us how God intends for children to be disciplined. Obviously, effective correction is not done by the rod (switch) alone, children need proper instruction **Prov 1:7; 2Tim 3:15**. Teaching children how to behave involves more than just the social graces. Jesus grew in four areas: “in wisdom (mentally) and stature (physically), and in favor with God (spiritually) and man (socially)” **Lk 2:52**. Most fathers are diligent in all of these areas except the most important one. Fathers are derelict in their responsibilities when they fail to instruct their children in God's word.

In regard to discipline let me suggest some guidelines that will help you earn the respect of your children. Identify the rules well in advance, then be consistent (it seems that inconsistency is one of the greatest problems). Keep your word, if you say, “I'm going to spank” then DO IT. Control yourself, don't discipline while angry, but if discipline needs to be immediate, then be sure your method of discipline will not injure your child. Remember the purpose of discipline is to correct undesirable behavior. Punishment is something one does FOR the child not TO the child **Heb 12:11**. You see, you love your child too much to allow them to behave badly.

Fathers are responsible for providing the proper environment for their children both sons and daughters. Some psychologists have concluded from research that father-deprived girls tend to show extremes or either promiscuity or withdrawal from males. In what direction have you “pitched your tent” **Gen 13:10-13; 19:14-25; 2Pet 2:7-8**? This may involve the kind of work you do; the community in which you live; where you send your children to school or even the congregation with which you worship. Who do you have to visit in your home? Who are the individuals that your children look up to and imitate? Yes, instruction and discipline are