

# Fathers Leading With Vision

Fatherhood is under assault. Society revolts against authority. Feminism attacks Biblical headship. Children accuse even godly fathers of emotional abuse. And so, fathers hesitate to stand up, obey the Bible, and lead their homes.

- *How can fathers develop biblical vision for their homes?*
- *How should they order their homes and help their children build convictions?*
- *How does "servant leadership" look for the earnest father?*

*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*

*One that ruleth well his own house,  
having his children in subjection with all gravity;  
1 Timothy 3:4*

**I. What are the pressures of our age?** The following is an excerpt taken from Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. It helps us understand some of the pressures of our day by what society says about themselves.

“Feminism is a range of socio-political movements and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes. Feminism holds the position that societies prioritize the male point of view and that women are treated unjustly in these societies. Efforts to change this include fighting against gender stereotypes and improving educational, professional, and interpersonal opportunities and outcomes for women.

“Originating in late 18th-century Europe, feminist movements have campaigned and continue to campaign for women's rights, including the right to vote, run for public office, work, earn equal pay, own property, receive education, enter into contracts, have equal rights within marriage, and maternity leave. Feminists have also worked to ensure access to contraception, legal abortions, and social integration;

and to protect women and girls from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. Changes in female dress standards and acceptable physical activities for females have also been part of feminist movements.

“Many scholars consider feminist campaigns to be a main force behind major historical societal changes for women's rights, particularly in the West, where they are near-universally credited with achieving women's suffrage, gender-neutral language, reproductive rights for women (including access to contraceptives and abortion), and the right to enter into contracts and own property. Although feminist advocacy is, and has been, mainly focused on women's rights, some argue for the inclusion of men's liberation within its aims, because they believe that men are also harmed by traditional gender roles. Feminist theory, which emerged from feminist movements, aims to understand the nature of gender inequality by examining women's social roles and lived experiences. Feminist theorists have developed theories in a variety of disciplines in order to respond to issues concerning gender”...<sup>1</sup>

## II. What does God’s Word teach us?

**1. It was Divine will that chose to create us male and female, each in His likeness and our gender goes to the core of our being.** The fact that we are either male or female is not contractual but creational. Our gender is established by Divine decree, not by our personal or social construct. We cannot renegotiate our gender as we might reschedule an appointment or refinance a mortgage. God created us, and we are His creatures, both men and women. Having been created male and female, we all begin as sons and daughters, become brothers or sisters, then move on to husbands and wives and may become fathers and mothers. These roles are God-made, run to the core of our being and influence our relationships in countless ways.

**2. God created man first and instructs him to lead in the relationship.** “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God... For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. -- Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.” 1 Cor 11:3, 8-9 “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” 1 Tim 2:11-14 God gave Adam instruction about the forbidden fruit and held him responsible for their mutual disobedience.

**3. Together, the man and the woman are to exercise dominion over God’s creation in companionship and partnership.** God gave the

newly created genders responsibility to:

1. Take dominion over the rest of creation, both natural and living.
2. Be fruitful and to multiply; in bearing offspring to fill up the earth.
3. Subdue the rest of His created world.

The duty to subdue creation and continue the patterns of creation through procreation brings sobering likeness and accountability to the Creator.

**4. The fall into sin of Adam and Eve has greatly complicated who we are as men and women.** God created us to synergize as men and women, each contributing essential blessing to each other. Sin complicates this prospect, but the Gospel of Christ Jesus makes it possible again. We need to recognize the frustration and hurts that come between us as men and women are not the fault of our gender but because of our fallen nature. The beauty of our Creator’s design can still shine out in the human family’s interrelationships.

**5. God’s way of relating to mankind changes in various dispensations, but the role of genders remains constant.** The created roles of male and female cannot be improved upon. From the peace of the Garden of Eden through the Old and New Testaments and into the terrible time of the Day of the Lord yet to come, the Bible gives a consistent pattern of male-female relationships.

**6. Godly men and women are to teach and show God’s design to those they live among and the rising generation.** God’s way is for husbands to lead their wives, fathers to lead out in family life, fathers to teach and be examples to their sons in God-honoring masculinity, and for mothers to exemplify virtue and homemaking to their daughters in God-honoring femininity. Godly homes become a stable influence and resource in a chaotic society. Where family structures are fractured, we need to fill in the gap so children and youth can see and feel the peace and beauty of functional home relationships. Are our churches truly helping those whose homes or marriages reflect broken relationships?

**7. The cultural trends of our age show man’s deep-seated rebellion against the Creator and the tragedy of broken role models.** Present trends of open or broken marriages, same-sex relationships or transgenderism are the result of man rejecting his Creator (Romans 1). Mankind thinks they are authoring a better way of liberation, but all they are doing is falling into the snare of Satan, the evil one

## III. What is the Christian’s Path forward?

**Fix your Goal.** One of the more sober realities gleaned from Jesus’ teaching are the lessons learned from life’s exit scenes. Every person leaves this life for an eternal, unchanging destiny and reward.

Of all of these, one of the most sobering accounts is found in Luke 12:41-48. In this passage Jesus teaches us the Son of man will call His servants into account for how they aligned and lived out their values with

<sup>1</sup><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism>

His own. We find three classes of people that come before Him.

1. There are those servants who did not know their Master’s will. They are not given excuse but are assigned an eternity without Christ.
2. There are servants who knew their Master’s will and abandoned their own goals and purposes in order to do His will. They lived in dedicated devotion, intentionally denying their own dreams in order to make the Master’s priorities their own. They receive great reward.
3. Another group heard their Master’s call, and understood His will for their lives, but they failed to direct their own passions and habits. Jesus warns that not only will they be rejected from His kingdom but tragically they will be beaten with many stripes for all eternity.

We have sober Bible illustrations of fathers with divided goals.

- Who was the father whose desire for the “well watered plain” led him to live in a perverted environment that totally compromised his family and righteous legacy?
- Who was the priest of God who could not tell his appetite “No!” and when his sons made themselves vile he restrained them not?
- Who was the king whose distracted attention kept him from displeasing his son (1Kgs 1:6) which contributed to his death (and no doubt his other brothers self-driven lives as well)?

Each one of us has basic goals that motivate us. We need to ask ourselves the question, “Are the goals I have for my life the ones that Jesus has placed me in this time and place to pursue?”

The word “fix” can have two meanings. Let’s use both. One is to “establish or set”. We need to seek our Master’s values and then set ourselves to live for Him. When our goal is fixed, we will not be double-minded. We will not live out of reaction; we will live with intention.

The other is to repair. When something is broken, then we fix it. Have I allowed my goals in life to drift away from Jesus’ kingdom? Maybe I am bitter about something or feel like I did not have a good role model so I cop out of leading in my home. This is extremely dangerous because of eternity. Maybe I yield to the temptation to waste time on my technology just because ...

Why is it important to “fix” our goals? If we do not “fix” our goals, we quickly become reactionary. Either we revert to carnality we saw lived out in our home, or we react to the emotion or the pressures of the moment. Our only hope is to intentionally and consistently fix our eyes on our eternal goal and to steadfastly make decisions with that goal in mind.

Remember the rich man that Jesus described in Luke 16:19-31? He wasn’t even a “bad immoral man.” He only was selfish. Today he is being beaten with many stripes and will forever more. His desire to have a good influence on his brothers came too late and very likely they have joined him in his miserable existence.

**Fill your Role.** If you are a married man, a father in a home then you are called to the role of husband and father. You are called to lead your home in establishing convictions, leading out in spiritual worship, helping your family make it a priority to win souls for the kingdom. There is no legitimate excuse to avoid taking your God-given responsibility. Following are some practical areas to consider:

- Evaluate your tendencies and lead with balance. A godly leader will need to find the balance between courage and consideration. Some men tend toward being timid. Maybe they never saw their father lead out. It is easier to withdraw into a safe shell. The opposite are those who have rarely stop to think how they make others feel. Assuming they are right, they find it easy to criticize wife, children and everyone else in their lives. Selfishness wears either face.
- Treasure your wife as a help-meet created for you by God. Use your leadership to create team synergy. You need all her gifts, strengths and weaknesses and your only tool to work with her is love and affection. Lead your wife in her emotional/spiritual journey. She deserves to know that she is the greatest treasure in your life.
- Make your children the center of your heart and life. Lead your family in regular, meaningful family worship as you establish the spiritual atmosphere of the home. Consistency in family worship is a key and while regular times of worship are demanding, they plant seeds that will bring a worthy harvest.
- Walk with your wife in working out consistent discipline. While you are present, it is your duty to correct irregularities. Remember the Traits for Leading a Family: Treasure, Train (to hearken), Teach, Transition, Trust, Turn Loose and Trade Roles.
- Lead your family in maintaining a warm and loving home atmosphere. If you can receive correction and admonition, work in harmony with your spouse, then you can also insist that children live in peace with their siblings. It is our nature to be contentious, but peace promotes righteousness.
- Talk to your children about their personal world of interest. Children and youth are individuals with emotions and preferences. It requires your attention and time spent together for them to understand that you consider them and their development important.
- Speak with your sons about their moral development and give proper instruction for their age. Take the initiative to establish restrictive guidelines for technology privileges. Especially work at helping them develop internal controls.
- Intentionally say positive things about your chosen brotherhood. You will need church family to anchor your youth someday.

Are you the wife? Make sure you seize the role of being a nurturer, of being a partner. When your husband asks you for advice, do not be

afraid to share how you feel. When he makes a decision, do your best to make his judgement work out. You will never win the respect and devotion of your children, nor the blessing of your Lord if you set yourself in sideways or against your husband’s leadership.

Are you a child at home? Children need to respect and obey their parents. Your parents are not perfect, none are. Every child can grow up and tell himself he should have had better parents. But that won’t bless you. Joseph and Daniel are examples of sterling character from needy settings. Choose to believe your Father in heaven loves you, and is giving you training in your home for a life of service to Him.

Theories of the impact of home atmosphere come and go, but the Bible is steadfast in holding children responsible to make right choices in spite of failures of their parents. Are your parents godly and as upright as you could wish, be thankful and follow in their steps! Are you able to see serious faults in your parent’s leadership? Forgive them, and then learn from that. Your Father in heaven knows what you are facing, and He can enable you to rise above generational weaknesses and failures.

**Feed your Soul.** The Bible does not divide people into categories of victimized or blessed. It only lays out the standard of choosing salvation and a living relationship with the Master for each one of us.

When a person is Spirit filled, then the fruit of the Spirit will come out of his life. When he is carnal then there will be envy and strife and every evil work.

Life will always provide upsetting circumstances. “Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.” Jas 3:13 You can choose this kind of a life even if your home setting may have programmed you to a default setting of negativity. You can choose meekness of wisdom even if your companion or children are moody.

You may be wondering how? There is no shortcut for spiritual growth and maturity. It begins with intentionally seeking the kingdom of God through Bible reading, prayer and meditation. Another avenue is memorization. When we make these traits a priority in our lives, we find ourselves growing into Christ’s own likeness. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Cor 3:18

**IV. What shall we carry away?** Our society is being deceived by the error of the wicked one. We dare not allow ourselves to buy into their delusion, or we will suffer their fate. God created us and will enable us to stand up and fill the calling He has for us. Every generation has had tests and has had faithful men. You and I too can be faithful today.