

Fathers are needed in raising adults. God has not called us to raise children... they are already children. There are far too many adults who behave like “children” in the world today. God calls us to raise our children to be godly adults!

We are called to be (and to continue to become) mature fathers in the faith. We are to raise our natural children as both spiritual and natural children. In addition to this, our parenting of our children, should grow us spiritually. This is so that we can mentor spiritual children.

God desires for us to all come to maturity, and fathers are one of the keys to making this happen!

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:13)

Dads, our jobs are to help bring the Body of Christ increasingly into this maturity. We must begin with our own spiritual growth. We must pass on increasing maturity to our children. We must demonstrate this increasing maturity to those around us... to those God gives us to mentor.

It is our jobs!

What Are You Aiming For?

“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.” (Psalm 127:4 NASB)

Fathers, we must take inventory of how we are preparing to launch our children into adulthood. Arrows in the hand of a mighty man, hit their target and accomplish their task.

What are we aiming at?

Are we preparing our children for financial success? Are we preparing them to be good parents? Are we preparing them for physical health?

Are we preparing them to obey God and impact the world for His glory?

Dads, we must have the right goal in mind. There are MANY good goals... there is ONE correct goal!

GLORIFY GOD! OBEY HIS VOICE!

Can You Do It Dad?

NO! And **YES!**

“...for without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13)

You cannot do it... without Jesus!

With Jesus... you can make a huge difference in the world, beginning with your children!



By: Robert Dallmann

“Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Timothy 1:2)

Son in the Faith

Timothy was not Paul’s natural born son, but isn’t it interesting that Paul refers to Timothy as his “son in the faith”? Why not “student”? “Protégé”? “Disciple”? The bible does give us some answers as to why the term “son” is used.

It may be helpful to understand some of the definitions of the Greek word translated as “son”.

The Greek word is “teknon” (see Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance G5043), and one of the interesting aspects of the definition of this word includes:

“the name transferred to that intimate and reciprocal relationship formed between men by the bonds of love, friendship, trust, just as between parents and children”

This definition really sums up why the term “son” is applied. **Love. Trust. Friendship.** This is what a parent - child relationship is supposed to be like. It is what this type of relationship can be, if one lets the Holy Spirit have His way.

Next, this was a common practice of the time. Mentor’s often referred to their pupils as “children”. The Apostle John uses the same Greek word (translated children) in this verse.

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PAUL AND TIMOTHY - A CHALLENGE TO DADS

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (3 John 1:4)

Summary of the Definition

Because of the **Love, Trust, and Friendship**, "sons" are far more likely than "students" to remain faithful to their "father".

We all likely know of MANY stories of "teacher - student" relationships, in which the student reaches a certain level of proficiency, and then leaves the teacher to do "his own thing". This happens so often in both spiritual and natural realms.

Apprentices become an apprentice in order to get what the master has to offer. In good relationships, the master will "commission" the apprentice at the right time. However, quite often, the apprentice leaves to "compete" with their instructor.

We probably know similar stories of parents and children in this type of situation; although, they are probably far fewer. The child will eventually inherit what the father has to offer. Whereas, the apprentice knows that this will normally go to the "son".

We can see this clearly in the Apostle Paul's statement below.

*"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, **yet have ye not many fathers:** for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." (1 Corinthians 4:15)*

Dad's, God wants us to be far more than instructors in Christ for our children! He wants us to be **FATHERS!**

Are We Leading?

The verse immediately following the one referenced above, says it all!

"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." (1 Corinthians 4:16)

You **MUST** be a good leader... in order to have good followers!

Fathers, God has called us to be good followers of Him, and thus, good leaders for our children.

So how do we lead? Learn to get out of God's way, and allow Jesus to live through you via the Holy Spirit!

There, now that is an easy answer, isn't it?

This writing is far too brief to get into the intricacies and details of this subject, but here are a few suggestions to help us get started.

1a) Read and study the Bible yourself. Dig into it... **DON'T** be intimidated! God wants you to know and understand Truth more than you do... He will help you!

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17)

Jesus prayed this for YOU! Do you think His prayers go unanswered? **No, certainly not!**

1b) Read the Bible with your children (and the entire family). Lead by example.

2a) Pray according to and in agreement with the Word of God.

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

2b) Pray with your children and the entire family according to and in agreement with the Word of God.

3) Fellowship regularly with Holy Spirit led Christians. Iron sharpens iron as we walk in the Light together.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have FELLOWSHIP one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

4) Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ regularly, and get your children involved.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14)

This one is likely the most frightening. But it can be simple to "ease" into it. For most of us, there are many ministries nearby. Every ministry is always looking for help (remember the laborers are few). Contact a ministry that you are drawn to and ask what kind of help they need. Seek out a ministry that allows you to share the Gospel with people. Then get involved.

REPENT... OFTEN!

Dads, perhaps one of the most powerful things you can do, is to teach your children **REPENTANCE!** Every single one of us is likely presented on a daily basis with opportunities to repent... **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!**

Men often find it difficult to repent... we **MUST** teach our children (especially our sons) to repent. Show them, by example, how a godly man deals with situations in which he was wrong. It is not weak to repent and confess.

If you have hurt your child, ask them to forgive you. Now you are teaching repentance **AND FORGIVENESS!** If you get nothing else from this writing, grab a hold of this. It will be a great starting place to deepen and enhance your relationship with your children (and your spouse).

REPENT... Just do it!

Naturally, Spiritually, Both!