

Introduction: We have a tremendous opportunity and also a great need for Biblical fathering in our homes. God gave Adam a responsibility in the Garden to lead his home but we found out quickly that sin destroyed the home. Sin destroys many homes today. It's only by God's grace that us men can father our homes in a way that pleases God and when we stand before Him, He says to us, "Well done!"

Problem is that *many* of us have seen terrible examples either personally or through acquaintances of unbiblical fathering. Today we will seek to lay a **biblical foundation** of fatherhood (What?), get **biblically motivated** (Why?) , and then **biblically implement** (How?) that kind of fatherhood this week.

Transition: First lets lay a biblical foundation of fatherhood. **What** is a biblical father?

- I. Biblical Foundation (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) (What?)
 - a. Possesses a personal relationship with God (v.4)
 - i. "Our God"—the surrounding nations did not have a saving knowledge of God. Based off what Paul says to the Romans, they exchanged that knowledge and worshipped the creature rather than the creator!
 1. Either you know God in a saving way or you are "going through the motions"
 2. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin on the cross and is the only way to have your sins forgiven and gain a relationship with God.
 - b. Practices personal obedience to God's Word (vv.5-6)
 - i. The commandments given to Israel provided the framework within which the Israelites could express their

love of God. You will naturally (not perfectly) obey the person you truly love.

- ii. God's Word was to be "upon the heart"—that is, the people were to think on them and meditate about them, so that obedience would be a natural response.
 1. By reflecting on the commandments, they were reflecting on God's words (6:1); and by understanding the path of life set down by the commandments, they would at the same time be discovering the way in which God's love for them was given expression.
- iii. This is why we are told in Psalm 1 to meditate on God's word "day and night".
- iv. We are told to do this in the New Covenant:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you **do**, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:16-17, ESV).

c. Persistently teaches God's Word in the home (v.7)

- i. Having understood the commandments for themselves, the people were then responsible for their children: you shall repeat them to your children (a theme already familiar; see Deut. 4:9). The commandments were to be the subject of conversation both inside and outside the home, from the beginning of the day to the end of the day.
- ii. In summary, the commandments were to permeate every sphere of the life of man.

d. Protects personal responsibility of the home (vv.8-9)

- i. The order given in vv. 8 and 9 continue to emphasize the important role the commandments were to play in man's life.

- ii. It is uncertain whether the verses were intended to be taken literally in their initial context, or whether they had a metaphorical sense.
- iii. In either case, they came to be taken literally during the course of Jewish history. “They shall be as frontlets on your forehead”.
 1. The frontlet, or phylactery, came into use as a small container enclosing a parchment on which a number of biblical verses were written.
 2. And you “shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates”—The mezuzah was a small box containing a parchment.
- iv. Whether taken literally or metaphorically, the signs described in vv. 8–9 indicate that the individual (v. 8), his home, and his community (v. 9) were to be distinguished in their character by obedience to the commandments as a response of love for God. We show our love for God today by obeying His command to biblically father our families.

What is a biblical father?

- Possesses a personal relationship with God
- Practices personal obedience to God’s Word
- Persistently teaches God’s Word in the home
- Protects personal responsibility of the home

Transition: Now that the biblical foundation of fatherhood is laid, let’s get **biblically motivated**. **Why** should I biblically father my family?

II. Biblical Motivation (Why?) 2 reasons:

- a. Children are a heritage of the Lord (ps.127:3)

Slide: *Patria Potestas*—Roman Law gave the Father absolute power over his family.

He could sell them as slaves; he could make them work in his fields even in chains; he could punish as he liked and could even inflict the death penalty. Further, the power of the Roman father extended over a child's whole life, as long as the father lived. A Roman son never came of age. Even when he was a grown man, even if he were a magistrate of the city, even if the state had crowned him with well-deserved honours, he remained within his father's absolute power. In the time of Paul, children were absolutely in their father's power.

Children were laid at the Father's feet and if he stooped to pick it up, the child was accepted: if the father walked away, the child was rejected and thrown out.

Sick and deformed children were drowned. Unwanted children were laid at the forum for people to claim, raise, sell into slavery or have slaves. All children at the end of the day were thrown out.

It was against this situation that Paul wrote his advice to children and parents. If ever we are asked what good Christianity has done to the world, we need only point to the change brought about in the status of women and of children

- b. Children are to be raised in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)
 - i. "Discipline"—to train someone in accordance with proper rules of conduct and behavior—'to discipline, to train, discipline, training.
 - 1. This means to train them according to the Lord's expectations, NOT your expectations!
 - ii. "Instruction"— counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct, admonition, instruction.
 - 1. Dad...you can't biblically father your family from the couch or recliner. Takes incredible work! I know you're tired BUT God has given you this responsibility and commands you to accomplish fathering your family.

2. If you do not counsel your children according to God's Word then the World will eagerly fulfill that role for you.

Why should we biblically father?:

- Children are an heritage of the Lord
- Children are to be raised in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

Transition: We've laid a biblical foundation, God's Word has motivated us, now we must biblically implement biblical fatherhood (this week). How can I biblically father my family?

III. Biblical implementation

- a. Walk with God this week (Psalm 101:2-4)
- b. Reconcile all household relationships (right now!) (1 Peter 3:7; Ps. 66:18)
 - i. "Live"—the more time you spend with your wife, the more trust is built. Remember Christ "loved" and "gave" himself for the church...the hardest thing to do.
 - ii. Remember to laugh...if you can't laugh with your family then that is an indication of bitterness.
- c. Engage your family in love (1 Cor. 16:13-14)
- d. Pray

Biblical Fatherhood (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Biblical Foundation: What is a biblical father?

- Possesses a personal relationship with God (Deut. 6:4)
- Practices personal obedience to God's Word (Deut.6:5-6)
- Persistently teaches God's Word in the home (Deut.6:7)
- Protects personal responsibility of the home (Deut.6:8-9)

Biblical Motivation: Why should we biblically father?:

- Children are an heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3)

- Children are to be raised in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)

Biblical Implementation: How can we biblically Father?:

- Walk with God this week (Psalm 101:2-4)
- Reconcile all household relationships (right now!) (1 Peter 3:7; Ps. 66:18)
- Engage your family in love (1 Cor. 16:13-14)
- Pray

Application:

This is only possible through the Gospel. If you are not a Christian, this would be pointless for you to implement. You need must repent and ask God's forgiveness before you attempt to implement biblical fatherhood. You are Satan's child and are currently pleasing him. I invite you to turn from your sin to Christ today!

This applies to fathers, to-be-fathers, grandfathers, and to-be-grandfathers.

Discipleship in this area is crucial for successful implementation because it provides encouragement and accountability.

May Woodlands be a church that has Biblical Fatherhood as the normal function in the family for God's glory and other's good.