

Dad, Set The Example

by John Isaac Edwards

The Lord expects fathers to be the spiritual leaders in the home. The Lord said of Abraham, “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...” (Gen. 18:19). Paul commanded, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). A man cannot expect his family to be or do better than himself! So, **Dad Set The Example...**

1) **In Attitude.** Our attitude is how we think or feel about someone or something, and is reflected in our facial expression, words, and actions. The wise man said, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Prov. 23:7). Some display negative attitudes toward everyone and everything! Aggression, anger, arrogance, betrayal, blame, cowardice, critical, cynical, depression, dishonesty, envy, greed, hatred, indifference, intolerance, irresponsibility, jealousy, pessimism, prejudice, resentfulness, sadness, selfishness, skepticism, suspicious, thoughtlessness, vengefulness, unemotional, untrusting — do any of these describe you? Do we want our

children to be characterized by such?

2) **In Behavior.** Paul wrote Timothy, “...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God...” (1 Tim. 3:15). Paul set a good example in this regard. Wouldn’t it be great if, as fathers, we could say to our families what Paul said to the Thessalonians, “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you...” (1 Th. 2:10). And again, “For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you” (2 Th. 3:7). If we would commit to being what a bishop must be, we would be what we ought to be (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

3) **In Speech.** James penned, “...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...” (Jas. 1:19). Paul wrote the Colossians, “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6). Titus was told, “Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:8).

4) **In Worship.** Worship is one of the greatest privileges we have as children of God. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). To fully worship God, one must assemble with the saints. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). Are we seen seeking “...first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...” (Mt. 6:33), or do we allow other things to come before the Lord, His kingdom and His word? Do we come with the disposition of the Psalmist, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Ps. 122:1)? Are we attentive unto the book of the law (Neh. 8:3)? Do we give thanks with a grateful heart (1 Th. 5:18)? Do we sing and make melody in our heart unto the Lord (Eph. 5:19)? Do we discern the Lord’s body (1 Cor. 11:23-33)? Do we give cheerfully, liberally and sacrificially (2 Cor. 9:6-7)? Do we come with hearts prepared to give our best unto the One who has given us His best?

5) **In Working With Your Hands.** Paul commanded the Ephesians, “Let him that stole

steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28). Paul taught, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8). Some are too lazy to work to provide. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest" (Prov. 6:6-8). For some, conditions are never right to work — he always finds an excuse not to work! "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Prov. 20:4). Remember 2 Thessalonians 3:10 — "...that if any would not work, neither should he eat"?

6) In Working For The Lord. How involved are we in the greatest work on earth, the Lord's work? The Corinthian Christians were exhorted, "...be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the

Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). "For we are laborers together with God..." (1 Cor. 3:9). One key to church growth is every joint supplying and every part working (Eph. 4:16). Are you a supplying joint and working part? How involved are you when it comes to the work of the Lord? Do you show great interest in the souls of others? Do you help out around the building as much as you can?

7) In Serving Others. Great men serve others. Jesus said, "...whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister" (Mt. 20:26). The Lord set an example of humble service toward others in washing His disciples' feet and said, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (Jn. 13:15). He was not binding foot-washing as a religious act, but instilling in their hearts the principle of service toward others! Galatians 5:13 teaches, "...by love serve one another." When a complaint was made of widows neglected in the daily ministrations, would you have been one of the men appointed to serve tables (Acts 6:1-7)? Every church needs table-serving men! Do you visit the sick, the fatherless and widows

(Mt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27)? One day we may find ourselves in need of some assistance!

8) In Righting Wrongs. It takes a big man to say, "I have sinned, please forgive me." Do we go to those against whom we have sinned or who have sinned against us (Mt. 5:23-25; 18:15-17) in an effort to be reconciled? Have we made our lives right with God, by hearing His word, believing in Christ with all our heart, repenting of our sins, confessing our faith in the Son of God and being baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins (Mt. 17:1-5; Heb. 11:6; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38)? In the gall of bitterness and bond of iniquity, have we made our hearts right with God by repentance and confession of sin in prayer unto God (Acts 8:13-20)? Are we forbearing and forgiving (Col. 3:13)? Do we live peaceably with all men, as much as lies in us (Rom. 12:18)?

As Paul wrote Timothy and Titus, every father would do well to "...be thou an example of the believers..." (1 Tim. 4:12) and "In all things shewing thyself a pattern..." (Titus 2:7).

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com