

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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### The Role of The Father In The Home

#### Introduction

There are sometimes situations when, as a Christian father, married life changes. Many a man or woman was married when yet unsaved, then at a juncture in life they heard the gospel and, accepting God's free gift of salvation, are saved. In such a situation the man is now married to an unsaved wife and they have little children. What is his role? If both parents are christians does the role change from that of the previous situation?

- a) Not in the slightest for before God they both have the responsibility to have their children brought up in an awareness of God in the home, to help their children understand the need of salvation, and as all fathers, saved and unsaved, to help their children grow to be honourable and productive members of society.

When on November 9th, 1969 at approximately 2:30 AM, I became a father. Without any training or instruction, the only example I knew was my own father who, as I look back on, was a tremendous father taking his role as a father very seriously. Indeed, even though He died 35 years ago, I love him more now as I get older for I see the wisdom and balancing of him as such. I recall a song, "I want a girl, just like the girl that married dear old dad". I would want to change the words to, "I want to be a dad, just like the dad that we as children had".

#### The Greatness of Virtually All Fathers

First it must be very clear that the vast majority of unsaved fathers love their children as much as any saved fathers. They strive to make sure that their children always have good food, suitable clothing, a clean place to sleep, a roof over their heads, and as good an education as can be gotten. Let anyone harm that child and see the love the father has by his anger. Such fathers love, protect and care for their children as genuinely as much as any saved father. Indeed, it is only because some deadbeat fathers are such or cruel to their children that they make the news. They are the exception to the rule. The difference lies ideally in the priorities of fathers.

#### How Do The Priorities of a Christian Dad Differ From An Unsaved Dad?

- 1) In an earlier day mothers and fathers made sure their children went to Sunday School, learnt the ten commandments and the catechism, etc. Sadly, many children are brought up in a world where sports and music is the center and horizon of life, and they only hear the name of God or Jesus in blasphemy.
- 2) I am well aware that we live in an anti-God world where educators teach the children the deception of evolution, filling their minds with anti-God teachings. The music of today in lyrics and beat is far removed from that which I knew in the 60's, but the end result is the same, live now and forget about God and eternity. The father and mother,

but in particular the father as the head of the home, has a major and difficult task to counter the evil teachings of evolution and atheism by solid instruction in the word of God and living before the children in the reality of God.

- 3) It is my conviction that the ideal priority of a saved father is the spiritual life of the children. Many years ago while with one of my children who was holding her little baby I said, "That child will never die". She looked at me wonderingly. I explained that the body might die, but that child will live for all eternity. A Christian father makes sure all is adequately done for the child in every area of life, and beyond that they will work with God to make sure they have done all that can be done for the salvation of the child.
- 4) The father set an example of God as Father for when the father speaks of God as "Father" and the children call him "father", what image is the father presenting to the child of God. Of all the responsibilities of fatherhood, this often unknown or neglected responsibility is one of the most important. When the child watches the father and learns the words of a father, sees the indiscriminate discipline or brutal cruelty of a father, what sort of image does that present of God? Is God presented as a hard cold faced being who gets irritated at the slightest thing and perhaps unintentionally seeks to impress others with his control over the children? I have seen it.
- 5) Furthermore, a father (or mother) who compares their child to the other children saying, "Why can you not do or be like SO in SO", or worse, an adult. I recall as if it were yesterday an individual who was not my father and no doubt meant it in a good way, told me, "If you are half as good as your father you will be all right." That is some 64 years ago! I recall my teacher in school telling me, "Do not let anyone call you a half wit, you do not have the intelligence for that". Degrading comparisons have dreadful effects on the child and adult for they often doubt what they can do and live in an enclosed world. No christian father should ever be guilty of doing such.
- 6) Christian fathers should not leave the spiritual instruction of his children to Sunday school teachers or youth leaders. He realizes that the children are his responsibility before God. One of the things I recall about my growing up was the family altar. Each morning, as long as I can recall, we were up, dressed, had our breakfast and then dad would read the Bible to us and then pray. Then we went to school. My parents made time for divine instruction. He taught us Bible lessons and Bible verses. I cannot recall a single night when he or mum would fail to have the three of us children get down on our knees and say our prayers. Being in the next room to mum and dad I often heard our names mentioned in prayer. I can only recall that which two Sunday School teachers taught us. One when I was very little taught us, "Thou God seest me" and the other the power of observation in looking up and reading bible verses looking for a word.
- 7) A christian father ought never ask a child, "Would God like to see you doing that?". What a spoilsport God is, not allowing me to do childish things. As parents we all make mistakes and I have yet to speak to a parent who could honestly say, "I have never done anything for which I regret in the raising of my children". Because the only guide we have is the Scriptures and instruction by others, many do not know the relevant Scriptures on fatherhood or perfect parenthood. Thank God Solomon had a very good father, King David. He was not perfect, but there were times when Solomon was growing up, and into adulthood, David took him aside and taught him priorities. They became so engrained in his mind that he wrote the things his father had taught him. It is called "Proverbs", with many of them being very wise statements:
  - a) "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).
  - b) "Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." (Prov. 4:24-27).
  - c) "Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured" (Prov. 13:18).

### [The Answer](#)

I need help, for I cannot be the father I ought to be by my own endeavours. I try, I make commitments to be a better father but fail, I do not need counselling, I need the help that comes from God alone. There may be changes needed in the home in the mornings and evenings to read and pray with the children, and that may take some enterprise, but that child will live for eternity either in Heaven or Hell. Mentally swap places with the child and ask, "Knowing I as a child needed spiritual instruction and prayer for my salvation, would I be satisfied with the sincerity of the prayer Dad speaks to God for me?" May the Lord help us to see our spiritual responsibility.

. . . . Rowan Jennings

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