

Some Things I Want to Teach My Sons

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Introduction: Regardless of how wicked our society comes, we as parents have the major influence in the shaping of our children's lives.

- A. Today we see the fruits of the efforts begun in the 60's to make a "unisex" society.
 - 1. Men are pushed to become effeminate and passive.
 - 2. Women are taught to become aggressive and abandon the home and married life.
 - 3. There is no wonder that these same leaders in shaping our society are now endorsing homosexuality as a wonderful lifestyle.
- B. We as parents have the word of God, an infallible guide. **(2 Tim 3:16-17)**
 - 1. If we would have the faith and humility to listen, God can help us.
 - 2. Oh for more parents with the attitude of Manoah. **(Judges 13:7-8)**
 - 3. If we look at the cross we find the lesson we must teach! **(Heb 5:8-9)**

I. Work is Honorable

- A. We live in a society that places more value on "what can I get" than of a strong character who will be a dependable and hard working provider.
- B. God expects every man to be the breadwinner for his home. **(Gen 2:24; Eph 4:28)**
 - 1. The idea here is to provide not only for self, but for others. Some men must mature before marriage!
 - 2. A good man is unselfish with the fruits of his labor. **(1 Tim 5:8; 2 Thess3:10)**
- C. I want my sons to give their best on any job they take. **(Ecc 9:10)**
 - 1. An hourly wage is a promise. Will I keep my end? **(Eph 6:6-7)**
 - 2. What kind of man was God's son, Jesus Christ? **(Mark 6:1-3)**
 - 3. Imagine meeting Jesus during this period of His life.

II. Service to the Lord Must be First in Their Lives

- A. While work is important, it is not first. **(Matt 6:33)**
 - 1. It is not second, his family is.
 - 2. Still this kind of man is important to his company than the worldly.
- B. I want my sons to overcome their timidity and have an understanding with their employer. **(2 Tim 1:6-7)**
 - 1. Tell the boss: "I am a Christian and I must be at worship." Gain a promise from him and hold him to it. Do not back down!
 - 2. This decision must be made in the heart. **(Matt 6:24-27)**
 - 3. It is difficult for a man to hold this commitment.
 - 4. This commitment must begin in school and continue in work. He will not get some jobs because of this. (Ex. 7th Day Adventist)
- C. Putting the Lord first means learning self-control. **(Rom 13:11-14)**
 - 1. My sons must make it through the teenage years and not be overcome by the "good old boys" who want to get high for fun.
 - 2. My sons must learn how to control their emotions and not be overcome by anger, jealousy and bitterness.

“One day a young mother and her kindergarten-age son were driving down the street. The inquisitive little boy asked, "Mommy, why do the idiots only come out when Daddy drives?"”

III. God has given the Man the Responsibility of Headship

A. This is a great responsibility. **(Eph 5:22-23)**

1. This means I must do things that I do not want to.
2. This means that I put others first. **(Matt 20:28)**

B. What true headship involves.

1. An acceptance of responsibility. (Not indecisive, vacillating but firm)
 - a. Too many men let their wives lead by doing nothing.
 - b. It is unimaginable to me for a man to bring children into the world and not be a Christian. This will bring problems for your children.
2. An unselfishness motivated by love. **(Eph 5:25)**
 - a. True leadership finds fulfillment in providing what is good for the family. (Ex. Our new dog, kittens and responsibility.)
 - b. Here is where the wise man will listen and learn. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
3. Leadership in the ways of God. **(1 Tim 2:11-12; Phil 2:19-24)**
 - a. Real leadership involves service that others run from. I would love to know my sons would be a Timothy.
 - b. Real leadership involves standing for what is right even when you must stand alone. Too many churches have cowardly men.
4. Good judgment. **(Heb 5:11-14)**

IV. The Value of Kindness, Courtesy and Gratitude

A. In short, how to be a gentleman.

1. They may not know the books of etiquette, but they must know God's book.
2. This is a quality of Character that puts others ahead of themselves.

“Children are natural mimics who act like their parents in spite of every attempt to teach them good manners.”

B. What are the marks of a great man? **(Matt 7:12; Phil 2:3-4)**

V. To be as useful as possible in the Lord's Service

A. There is such a need for workers in the kingdom. **(Matt 9:37-38)**

1. I want them to take their talents as far as possible.
2. This will require faith and a willingness to try and learn.

B. At the same time I want them to avoid pride. **(1 Cor 8:1-2)**

1. Some do things to be seen. **(Matt 6:5)**
2. When men do work for the Lord, they will be blessed!

Conclusion: There is only a limited time in which these things can be taught to our children. They grow up!

A. What example will they see in us as parents. **(1 Cor 11:1)**

“The best thing parents can spend on their children is time--not money.”

B. I want my boys to understand that true success is found in doing the will of God. **(Matt 7:24-27)**