

Spiritual Leadership Within the Home

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In our previous study, we took a look at God's design for the home by examining the roles of the husband and the wife.
- B. In this study, we are going to examine spiritual leadership within the home. Spiritual leadership is crucial to the development God fearing children, and then, adults.
- C. In this study, we will show that spiritual leadership begins with a resolve to serve the Lord, followed by the need for parents to teach their children about God and His word, and ending with the need for parents to set the proper example for their children.

I. A RESOLVE TO SERVE THE LORD.

- A. There must be a resolve within the head of the family to serve God.
- B. Let us consider two Bible examples.
 - 1. Abraham's resolve. (Genesis 18:19)
 - 2. Joshua's resolve. (Joshua 24:15)
- C. The father has the responsibility to make the decision for his family to serve the Lord. Let us take a look at Ephesians 5:23-28.
 - 1. The husband is the head of the wife. (Ephesians 5:23)
 - 2. The wife is to be subject to the husband. (Ephesians 5:24)
 - 3. The husband is to love his wife. (Ephesians 5:25-28)
 - a. Christ showed the extent of His love for the church by giving Himself for the church so that He could present a holy church without spot, wrinkle, or blemish.
 - b. The father, who loves his wife and his family in the same manner in which Christ loved the church, will try to direct his family in a manner that would be acceptable unto God.
- D. The way that the father will present his family acceptable unto God will be by leading his family in the commandments of God and teaching his family the law of Christ. Not only will a father teach God's word to his family, but he will see to it that the family lives by God's word.

II. PARENTS ARE TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN.

- A. Parents must teach their children God's word. (Ephesians 6:4)
- B. Consider the principle of home study given to the Israelites. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)
 - 1. The principle taught in God's command to the Israelites concerning their daily study of God's word is sound under the New Covenant.
 - a. We have to understand that when the New Covenant was established, the Jews were still following the study practices taught in the Old Law.
 - b. When the first century Christians were taught to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, the Christians were more than likely obeying the principle that they had been following for years.
- C. What about Bible classes and worship services?
 - 1. The worship services are commanded by God. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - 2. The worship services serve as an opportunity to learn God's word. Consider the words of the apostle Paul to Timothy. (1 Timothy 4:12-13; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 4:1-2)
 - 3. Bible classes are equally beneficial because of the learning environment.
 - 4. There is a very important point to remember: Parents must not leave the teaching of their children to the bible classes and worship services alone.
 - a. The teaching done in the Bible classes and worship services should not comprise the whole of you and your child's learning.
 - b. The Bible classes and worship services should only augment or re-enforce you and your child's regular bible study at home.

III. PARENTS ARE TO SET THE RIGHT EXAMPLE.

- A. The parents must set the right example.
 - 1. Your children will see the way you live. They will see whether or not you practice what you teach.
 - 2. Consider the case of Azariah who reigned as king of Judah. Azariah did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. Why? Because he had seen his father walk righteously. (2 King 15:1-4)
 - 3. There was also the case of Timothy. Both his mother and grandmother lived faithfully unto God. Timothy saw his mother's and grandmother's examples and

followed those examples. (2 Timothy 1:3-5)

- B. The family must live by the Gospel if they are going to maintain the proper foundation. Consider some specific teachings that must be observed in the home.
1. Your family must be assembling with the saints as much as possible. Why? For learning, for edification, for love, for admonishment, and, if necessary, for rebuke. (Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Timothy 4:2)
 2. Your family must diligently study so that the members of the family will be found acceptable unto God. (2 Timothy 2:14-16)
 3. Your family must not subject themselves to evil and wicked influences. (Psalms 101:2-4; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
 4. Your family must be taught to use proper language; not that which is corrupt and foul. (Ephesians. 4:29-30; Colossians 3:8-10; 4:5-6)
 5. Your family must be taught to know how to discern right from wrong. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
 6. Your family's life must revolve around God.
 - a. Each family member must learn to obey God's word, making themselves living sacrifices. (Romans 12:1-2)
 - b. These living sacrifices must be set apart from the world so that they will be able to devote their existence to God.
 - 1) The apostle Paul reminded the saints in Ephesus of this fact by writing, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10)
 - 2) The apostle Peter wrote, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."* (1 Peter 2:9-10)
 7. Teach your family the following three principles regarding God:
 - a. God is all powerful, all knowing, and always present. (Psalms 139:7-10)

- b. God's word is Truth. (John 17:17)
 - 1) Understanding the Lord's word to be truth is a healthy spiritual attitude which all Christians must possess. (cf. Psalms 19:7-11)
 - 2) Let us teach our families that "*every word of God is pure.*" (Proverbs 30:5-6)
- c. God is always right and, come the end of time, the only thing that will matter is whether or not the members of your family have obeyed God. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

CONCLUSION.

- A. Let us encourage every father and every mother to lead their families in matters pertaining to spirituality.
 - 1. Make it your family's resolve to serve the Lord.
 - 2. Teach your children God's holy word.
 - 3. Set the right example for your children in all areas of life.
- B. In our next lesson, we will study the lesson, "Steps to Saving Your Marriage."