

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Responsibilities of a Christian Dad

1 As a man, if you choose to marry and have children,

you embark on an awesome responsibility.

Becoming a dad is the most important job in the world! Next to progressing to be the most compatible husband for your wife, it supersedes every other aspect of life; your hobbies, your recreation, your other friendships and, even, your employment.

God's word, the Bible, gives us some direction concerning those responsibilities.

The first responsibility I have found is that God wants you . . . 2

I. To Be a Provider

To be a provider. 3

God wants you to **be the provided for your wife.**

Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 25 through 33 state, **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant**

church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. ⁴

The first provision is to love her. ⁵ **Love your wives** ¹ means to give of yourself to satisfy her needs. This phrase appears three times in this passage! ⁶

Notice the words that describe this kind of love. ⁷ **Gave himself up** in verse 25; ⁸ **make her holy** in verse 26; ⁹ **present her as radiant** in verse 27; ¹⁰ **as their own**

¹ αγαπατε τας γυναικας.

bodies in verse 28; ¹¹ and **feeds and cares for it** in verse 29. ¹²

The second provision is to remain faithful to her. ¹³
The divorce rate in the United States is nearly 50%!
The crime rate and maladjusted family life is greater than any other time in human history. ¹⁴ The single most important legacy you could give to your children is faithfulness to their mother! ¹⁵

Next, God wants you to **be the provider for your family**.

First Timothy, chapter 5, verse 8 says, **If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever**. ¹⁶

The word **provide** ² means to foresee or set your mind towards their needs. ¹⁷ Faith is denied because the faith is summed up in love – satisfying their needs! ¹⁸
You become worse than an unbeliever because

² Προνοέω.

Hebrews, chapter 6, verse 6, says a backslider has crucified the Son of God afresh and has exposed Him to an open shame! ³

The second responsibility I have found is that God wants you . . . 19

II. To Be a Professor

To be a professor. 20

Deuteronomy, chapter 6, verses 5 through 9 says, **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them**

³ Hebrews 6:4-6 - It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. ²¹

This passage shows you **the ways** to teach. ²² Verse 7 tells you to instruct and demonstrate; **talk about them, tie them, bind them and write them.** ²³ Verses 8 and 9 tells you to visualize; **symbols on your hands, on your foreheads, on your doorframes and on your gates.** ²⁴

This passages tells you **when** to teach, in verse 7; ²⁵ while **you sit at home** at mealtime with your family, ²⁶ **when you walk along the road** witnessing in your daily activities; ²⁷ **when you lie down** to sleep at night and have your evening devotions, ²⁸ and **when you get up** waking in the morning during your quiet time. ²⁹

God's word also tells you **who** to teach. ³⁰ You are to teach **your children,** ⁴ ³¹ **your wives,** ⁵ ³² and yourselves. ⁶ ³³

⁴ Deuteronomy 6:7 - These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.

⁵ I Corinthians 14:35 - If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home;

⁶ Romans 2:21 - You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?

Your children's primary instructions need to come from dad! ³⁴

This teaching is accomplished by **Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** ⁷ ³⁵

Training, or discipline ⁸ means to train by action. In other words, the rod might be necessary sometimes to squash rebellion . . . **because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.** ⁹ ³⁶

Instruction ¹⁰ here means to train with words. ¹¹ ³⁷

In fact, the apostle was quick to equate his teachings to his disciples like a dad would instruct his children.

⁷ Ephesians 6:4.

⁸ Παιδεία.

⁹ Proverbs 3:2.

¹⁰ Νουθεσία.

¹¹ Proverbs 1:8 - Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children.¹²

The third responsibility I have found is that God wants you . . .³⁸

III. To Be a Priest

To be a priest. God says about His children . . . but you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood.¹³³⁹

You are **to be the spiritual leader of your family! First Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 3 puts it this way, **Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.**⁴⁰**

Your wife is to submit to your authority as God's representative to your family¹⁴⁴¹ and your children are to obey and honor their parents.¹⁵⁴²

¹² I Thessalonians 2:11.

¹³ I Peter 2:9.

¹⁴ Ephesians 5:22 & 33 - Ephesians 5:22 & 33 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. . . However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

You are **to offer spiritual sacrifices to God on behalf of your family**.⁴³

You do this by **personally surrendering your life to the Lord's authority over you!** But how?⁴⁴

First, you do it by **renewing your mind** to God's ways. Romans, chapter 12, verses 1 and 2, **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.**⁴⁵

Second, you do it by **denying yourself and following Lord Jesus daily!** The Lord said, **If anyone would**

¹⁵ Ephesians 6:1-2 - Children, **obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right. **"Honor your father and mother"** — which is the first commandment with a promise . . .

come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.¹⁶ 46

You also offer up spiritual sacrifices by your prayers of intercession and praise on behalf of your family. Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 15, **Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.** 47

Dad – take on the role God has assigned you. He has given you all you need to be successful!

<http://biblelifemessages.org>

¹⁶ Matthew 16:24.