June 19, 2022 **5 Qualities of a Christian Father** Pastor Billy Burchfield

Billy Graham once said: “*A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed,* ***and yet*** *one of the most valuable assets in our society*.”

There are many qualities of a **good** Christian father found in the Bible. We must start with *the father simply being present*. The DHHS said that in 1996, 42% of single mother households lived below poverty level, **but** only 8% of households with married parents were considered poor.

**Love God: Deuteronomy 6:4-9** “*Hear, O Israel: The* ***Lord*** *our God is* ***one Lord****: And* ***thou shalt love the Lord thy God*** *with* ***all*** *thine heart, and with* ***all*** *thy soul, and with* ***all*** *thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day,* ***shall be in thine heart****: And thou shalt* ***teach them*** *diligently unto thy children, and shalt* ***talk of them*** *when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt* ***bind them*** *for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as* ***frontlets*** *between thine eyes. And thou shalt* ***write them*** *upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates*” (repeated in Mark 12:29 and 30).

***\*\*\* Training children starts with loving God above all else.*** Our Jewish friends call this passage ***Shema Yisrael*** (“*Hear, Israel*”). It is ***the centerpiece of the Jewish prayer time***. *All Israel* is **instructed** to love God above all others. Then *parents* are instructed to ***teach*** their children **God’s law**. The promise in verse 2 of this chapter is ***long life to*** those fathers and children **who learn to obey and trust God**.

**Love Others: Mark 12:31** “..*the second* [commandment] *is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these*.”

First commandment: **love God**. Second: **love others**. A good Christian father you must have the characteristic of love for others. Not just for his own children, but a genuine love for people. If he does not have this, it will show in his life and will have a negative influence on his children.

Besides being a good Christian characteristic, it is **a command** from our Lord. This even includes our enemies as Jesus taught in the sermon on the mount (Matt. 5:43-48).

**Mentor: Proverbs 22:6** “***Train up*** *a child in* ***the way*** *he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*.”

Is it a promise or a principle? The **command** is ***to train children***, and as fathers, we can make a decision to train up our children. It is not just a command to train, because we are always modeling for our children how to live. It is a command to **train them in the way** **they should go**. Train them in a right way. Be a mentor to them.

**Patient: Ephesians 6:4** “*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*.”

It requires patience to train a child in the right way. **Do not** provoke, or frustrate, your children by unreasonable demands. Losing your patience with your children creates tension for everyone. It is very difficult for them to learn in such a caustic environment.

**Good Worker: Genesis 2:15** “And the Lord **God took** the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”

God put Adam in the garden and ***gave him instructions to work***. This was before the fall. From the beginning God planned that man would have a job to do. The difference after the fall is that man’s work would become difficult.

Paul teaches in 2 Thess. 3:10-12 that men who are lazy and refuse to work should not be allowed to eat. This does not say that people who can’t work shouldn’t eat. It says that those who “*would not work*,” meaning that they could, but they choose not to. Do we truly believe God means what He says?