

A SPECIAL MAN

I. A father is the head of the house.

- A. Ephesians 5:23.
 - 1. This is a role that must be taken seriously.
 - 2. As the head of the house, the father is going to be the first one held accountable by God.
- B. Notice that this passage compares the husband as head of the house to Christ as the head of the church.
 - 1. Christ sacrificed much to be the head of the church.
 - 2. He gave up a relationship of equality with the Father to come to earth.
 - 3. He lived with little to nothing while on earth.
 - 4. He gave His life for the church because He loves it so much.
- C. The father in the home is to be willing to sacrifice for the family.
 - 1. He sacrifices time that he might spend doing other things in order to be with his family.
 - 2. He sacrifices his personal desires for the family.
 - 3. He sheds tears for his family and offers up prayers for them.
- D. Good fathers know that the buck stops with them and that decisions, though difficult, must be made with the best spiritual interest of each family member in mind.

II. A father seeks wise counsel so he can lead his family properly.

- A. Good dads know they don't know everything.
- B. I haven't met a dad yet, including myself, who doesn't need good advice from time to time.
- C. The best advice comes from the perfect Father.
 - 1. God knows when and why to discipline us (Hebrews 12:5-6).
 - a. To me, this is one of the hardest parts of parenting.
 - b. I ask myself all the time, is that worth getting upset over or not.
 - c. God knows and we can learn from Him.
 - 2. God knows when we need uplifting (1 Peter 5:7; 2 Corinthians 1:3).
 - 3. God knows when we need humbling (1 Corinthians 10:12).
- D. There are fathers in this congregation who I've asked for advice because they have wisdom and been through it before.
- E. There are some men I've met that I would never ask for advice except to find out what not to do.
- F. Fathers, especially younger ones, should never be too proud to ask for advice from wise Christian men and we should always be open to

God's word for advice from it.

- G. Notice God's commendation of Abraham (Genesis 18:19).
- H. May God be able to say that about us as well, as we seek wise counsel to help us be better fathers.

III. A father is a rock for his family.

- A. God always does that which is right (Genesis 18:25).
 - 1. Abraham knew that God would do what is right.
 - 2. God is the giver of every good and every perfect gift (James 1:17).
 - 3. God does right and is always there for His children.
- B. An earthly father, of course, will not always do right because he is human, but, if a Christian, he will do his best to always do right.
 - 1. He will do his best to rear his children in the right way (Ephesians 6:4).
 - a. One study showed that if dad's don't attend regularly, only 3% of those children will be religious when they leave home.
 - b. It boiled to show that if the father doesn't attend, only one in fifty children will be faithful, no matter how much the mother attended.
 - 2. He will strive to be the disciplinarian he needs to be.
 - 3. He will strive to show the love and compassion he needs to for his children to feel his love.
 - 4. He will seek to treat the children's mother in the right way to set the example for how his sons should treat their wives and how his daughters should look to be treated by their husbands.
- C. He will do these things because he knows it is pleasing to God and his family needs him to be these things.
- D. Fathers set the tone in the home for spiritual and emotional well-being and we need to take that role very seriously.

IV. A father is a good provider.

- A. God provides all good things and everything we truly need (Matthew 6:31-33).
- B. Fathers are to be the providers for the home as long as they are capable.
 - 1. Fathers should be willing to work to provide for their families.
 - 2. 1 Timothy 5:8.
 - 3. 2 Thessalonians 3:10.
- C. Sadly, there is a term that has been brought into use in the last few years and that is "deadbeat dad."
 - 1. There is a website entitled, "deadbeatdad.com" where you can go to find a list of these men who refuse to take care of their children's financial needs.
 - 2. How sad it is there is such a large number of men who refuse to be responsible for the children they helped bring into

the world.

- D. Our Father in heaven always takes care of His children and a good father looks to God for this example.

V. **A father makes time for his family.**

- A. It is obvious that God makes time for us because He has provided us with the avenue of prayer.

- 1. We can come before Him at any time day or night with our requests and petitions.
- 2. He has told us through His word that this is His desire (Luke 18:1).

- B. Fathers need to have the same attitude toward their children.

- 1. They need to know they can come to us at any time with a problem, no matter how big or small.
- 2. This is a great way that we show them we love them.

- C. First and foremost, we should take the time to develop them spiritually.

- 1. We need to pray with our children, study with them and help them get to know God like we do.
- 2. All other things we do with them are secondary to this.

- D. Then, we need to take the time to be there at their events.

- 1. School awards days, sporting events, piano recitals, fishing or golfing trips all need to be priorities.
- 2. It is said that the average dad spends less than 15 minutes a day talking to his children.
- 3. They need much more time than this in order to properly grow.