

WHAT FATHERS PROVIDE (Ephesians 6:4)

I. Fathers are to provide physically.

A. 1 Timothy 5:8.

1. The burden of provision is placed squarely on the shoulders of the man of the house.

2. The verse speaks of “his own” and “his own household”.

B. Paul told the Ephesians that a husband is to care for his wife as his own body and as Christ loved and gave Himself for the church (Ephesians 5:28-29).

1. At times, a father will need help from the mother in providing for the family.

2. There is no doubt in this current economy that most families need two incomes.

3. There is no passage in scripture that teaches it is sinful for a woman to work outside the home.

4. I do believe we would all agree that if she doesn't have to, it is best for her to be at home.

5. But, again, there is no passage that says she can't or shouldn't.

C. In all things, a father should do his best to provide for his family (2 Thessalonians 3:10-11).

1. This doesn't mean he has to provide fancy clothes, luxury cars, and a mansion for his family.

2. It doesn't mean he has to provide the latest technology, most expensive toys, or anything like those things for his children.

D. Notice what 1 Timothy 6:8 teaches.

1. Food and clothing, the basic necessities of life, should keep us content.

2. It would be great to provide more, but if we can't, we aren't sinning.

E. Our heavenly Father provides for us physically and sets the example in this.

1. Matthew 6:25-33.

2. God will give us the ability to have that which we need (Matthew 7:11).

II. Fathers are to provide love and stability.

A. We can't simply stop at providing physically for our families.

1. There are many dads who do this.

2. They have the idea that as long as their family has the things needed for life that their job is done.

B. Fathers set the emotional tone for the family.

1. An angry father makes for a fearful family.

2. A neglectful father makes for a resentful and hurt family.

C. When fathers fail to love, which children need and desire, that is one way that we provoke our children to wrath (Ephesians 6:4).

D. This love must be first shown to the wife (Ephesians 5:22-33).

1. This commands the father to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

2. This is the unconditional love that Jesus has shown us.

E. This love towards the wife creates stability in the home.

1. Children don't need to wonder if their parents are going to get a divorce.

2. They don't need to come home and wonder if they need to hide in their

rooms to stay out of the middle of a big fight.

F.No matter what is given, this unconditional love must be given back.

G.The father is to provide his wife with affection and care.

H.God feels so strongly about this that He had Peter inspired to write that the husband's spiritual life depends on it (1 Peter 3:7).

I.We must spend time with our families, listen to them, show them love, and provide stability.

J.Surely we realize that God loves us and provides stability in our lives.

1.Romans 5:8.

2.Hebrews 13:5.

3.God isn't going to leave us, we know what we are getting from God.

4.He showers His love down upon us and we never have to doubt His love for us.

III.Fathers are to provide leadership.

A.God has always commanded the man of the house to bear the mantle of leadership in the home.

1.Genesis 3:16.

2.Someone said that the sin in the Garden of Eden was the beginning of the feminist movement.

3.Eve set herself above her husband.

B.1 Corinthians 11:3.

C.Ephesians 5:23-24.

D.Wives are to submit and they need someone to submit to.

E.Wives need to be able to look to their husbands for leadership.

F.This in turn will cause the children to look to their father for leadership.

G.We need to provide leadership that our families can follow (Ephesians 6:1).

1.When we fail to exalt God our children can't and shouldn't follow us.

2.They are to obey us "in the Lord".

H.We know that God provides us leadership.

1.He has given us commands that are good and right for us to follow.

2.All for the purpose of giving us a great life here on earth, as well as a great life in the next life to come.

IV.Fathers are to provide spiritually.

A.Ephesians 6:4 lays this responsibility at the feet of fathers.

1.The job is not to be left to mom while dad is out providing physically for the family.

2.The job is not to be left to the Sunday school teacher or the preacher.

3.It is the dad's job to raise up his children in the Lord.

B.Clovis Chappell, a great preacher of a previous generation, used to tell the story of two paddleboat steamers. They left Memphis about the same time, traveling down the River to New Orleans. As they traveled side by side, crew members made disparaging remarks about the slowness of the other boat.

Words were exchanged. Challenges were made.

1.And the race began. The competition was keen as the boats roared down the Mississippi. One boat began falling behind. Not enough fuel.

There had been plenty of coal for the trip, but not enough for a race. As the boat dropped back, an enterprising crew member took some of the

ship's cargo and tossed it into the ovens. Their boat began to catch up, so they made fuel out of more and more cargo. They finally won the race, but in the process they burned their cargo, the very material they had been hired to transport.

2. Parents, our primary mission is not to win a rat race, but to faithfully care for those persons entrusted to us, especially our children.

C. Fathers must make sure their children are getting fed spiritually as well as physically.

D. In a book called "Point Man" by author Steve Farrar, there is a comparison made between a father and his role in the spiritual survival of his family and a point man leading troops in enemy territory.

1. He wrote, "If you are a husband/father, then you are in a war. War has been declared on your family and mine.

2. Leading a family through the chaos of American culture is like leading a small patrol through enemy occupied territory. And the casualties in this war are as real as the names etched on the Vietnam Memorial."

E. We know God the Father has provided for us spiritually.

1. 2 Peter 1:3.

2. Everything we need to make it to heaven has been given us by our heavenly Father.

From an article found on knightsoffatherhood.org