

*Father, our children keep;
We know not what is coming on the earth;
Beneath the shadow of Thy heavenly wing
O keep them, keep them, Thou who gav'st them birth.*

*Father, draw nearer us;
Draw firmer round us Thy protecting arm;
O clasp our children closer to Thy side,
Uninjured in the day of earth's alarm.*

*Them in Thy chambers hide;
O hide them and preserve them calm and safe,
When sin abounds, and error flows abroad,
And Satan tempts, and human passions chafe.*

*O keep them undefiled,
Unspotted from a 'tempting world of sin,
That, clothed in white, through the bright city-gates,
They may with us in triumph enter in.*

Horatius Bonar

Session 11 – Parent-Children Relationships

Ephesians 6:1-4, Psalm 78:5-7, Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Introduction:

A. Children in marriage are a gift from God

Genesis 33:5

Psalm 127:3

B. Honest parent desires child's best interest and happiness

KEY: Set hope in God; result is happiness and blessing

Psalm 78:7

Psalm 71:5

Psalm 146:5

C. Rules of interpersonal relationships Each has responsibilities Seminar geared to parents

D. All principles covered must be applied

1. Christ-centered

Acts 4:12

Colossians 2:9,10

2. Word authority

Numbers 23:19

II Timothy 3:16

3. Guidelines of love

John 13:34,35

Ephesians 4:15

I Corinthians 13

4. Importance of the individual

I Corinthians 12:18

I. Importance of parents' roles

Parent Love Begins With Married Love

by Dr. David Goodman*

We have come to understand that every period in life has its special problem, and that even a newborn baby has a lesson to learn - to receive and give love.

But this problem really began before his birth. It began with you two, his parents. Unless you love each other, you cannot properly love him nor provide a love-warmed home for him ...

A man who is a good lover to his wife is his children's best friend. His love upholds her spirit, gives her joy and enthusiasm. Child care is play to a woman who is happy. And only a man can make a woman happy. In deepest truth, a father's first duty to his children is to make their mother feel fulfilled as a woman . . .

The wife who is unhappy in her relations with her husband tends to over-attach herself to her children and dominate all the aspects of their life. This inhibits their growth in self-reliance . . .

What wives need to know, especially American wives, is that children have to have fathers, not only providers, nice human fathers, cheerful and relaxed... A married woman has two jobs: one to care for her children, the other to keep a man happy. Many women object to this, giving up the second job when the first gets too burdensome. But they're foolish. If they balance their devotion, they'd come out better in the end . . . Much of the attention that mothers give their children is excessive . . . Husbands, however, are often neglected.

My Husband - An Assistant Mother?

In countless families, the father is merely "mother's little helper." She exhorts him, "why don't you change the baby?" "How about feeding him while I go shopping?" "Get him dressed, I'm busy." "It's condoned by many family experts. They urge today's father to be a part-time nursemaid so that he will be "emotionally enriched" as mother is.

But this is foolish advice. Male physiology and psychology aren't geared to it. Not that there's anything wrong with a father occasionally giving baby a bottle, or changing a diaper if the situation requires it or he enjoys it. What's wrong is thinking that it adds to his parenthood. When a man tries to be a "better "father by acting like a mother, he is not only less fulfilled as a father, but as a man too. A father's relationship with his children can't be built mainly around child-caring experiences. If it is, he's a substitute mother - not a father!

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Fathers Wanted!

by Paul Popenoe

It has been supposed by man v that the mother should be considered mainly responsible for the development of all her children, for the first five or ten Years, after which the father might be expected to devote more time to the boys. Research generally shows that this idea is quite contrary to fact, and that perhaps the first five years of a boy's life are especially .significant in respect to his development as a "normal" male. One study found that "father absence" in the lives of three-to-five year old children left them seriously handicapped; another study of four-to-eight year old children who for the first two years of their lives had been separated from their fathers, often due to the parent's military service, showed them perceived by their returned fathers to be "sissies."

The boy who receives positive, fathering is particularly well suited to both learn and effectively influence his peer group. . . Having observed his father's relationship with his mother, he has learned basic skills in interacting with females. He can communicate adequately with the opposite sex. He does not feel intimidated by women, yet he does not have to dominate them constantly. He can accept their femininity because he is secure in his masculinity. . . On the other hand, the paternally deprived boy is likely to have developmental difficulties.

In families where the husband has to be away from home a great deal, particular pains should be taken to see that the boy has adequate opportunity to spend some time alone with Dad.

Two basic concepts:

1. Goal: respect for authority - Ephesians 6:1,2
2. Personal responsibility - Psalm 78:6,7

II. Consideration

Ephesians 6:4

Ephesians 4:2,3

I Corinthians 13:4-7

A. A child needs to know that his parents love, want and enjoy him - love

(Review definition of love)

1. Express enjoyment of them verbally
2. Need for physical expression of love (i.e., sit on your lap, hold hand, touching them)
3. Praise child for effort not perfection of act