

## Doctrine of Family

### The Husband in Covenant

1. A Christian man must be identified, and characterized by Scripture, and not by the world
2. Sometimes, the world has some very good ideas of what a man should be, reflected by the prayer of General Douglas MacArthur for his son.

“Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee—and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously.

Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, ‘I have not lived in vain’” (June, 1942).

3. While the world has a view of what a man should be, so does the Lord, manifested in the Dominion Covenant.
  - The Dominion Covenant. *Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
  - Exercising the Dominion Covenant. *Genesis 2:19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

4. The modern man's job is to make the money, help the wife in the home, take care of the yard, and manage the grill during a cookout.
5. But, there is more, from a Biblical perspective. The first "garden" to attend is the family. The father has the central responsibility for the family, and should not relegate that role to the wife.
6. Primarily, the man is to be a good husband and father within the family structure.
  - *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
7. Consider the specific instructions given to the husband.
  - The husband is to love the wife in order to reflect the relationship between Christ and the church.
  - The husband is to give himself to the wife as Christ gave His life for the church, not just in death, but in every facet of living.
  - The husband is to sanctify the wife, as Christ sanctifies the church.
8. As life is lived, as the husband takes seriously his God given role to love, protect, and sanctify the wife, and thus the children, Christ is glorified.
9. The sanctifying work of the father, reflecting the work of Christ, is done by understanding, what Calvin called, the "munis triplex of Christ", the three-fold role of Christ.
10. Christ is, to the church, Prophet, Priest, and King. So the father is to be, in his home, a prophet, priest, and king.
  - Prophet. As a prophet, the father is to tell forth the Word of God.
  - Priest. As a priest, the father is to pray and intercede before God daily, on behalf of the family. Pray specifically for each family member, and ask God for specific spiritual blessings for them. Let the father place his hands on the heads of the children and bless them and pray for them.
  - King. As a king, the father is to rule with wisdom and authority. A king is a covenant head over a kingdom. The king is to be benevolent. He is to be generous, and loving. He is to be stern when necessary, but always fair and just. The king is responsible for every "spot and wrinkle." He cannot quit.

11. The challenge is that family members contain an Old Sin Nature and do not like to be ruled over, let alone led into a spiritual Covenant relationship, or receive the Word of God.
12. Another challenge is that the father does not want to take seriously his God given role to love the family according to gospel terms.
13. What can be done? There is only one solution, and that is an agreement to repent any wrongdoings, confess all known sin, commit afresh the heart to gospel obedience, and submit to the known will of God.
14. There are practical results when God's way is followed.
  - The Lord will be glorified, and that will bring the blessing of heaven.
  - The wife will be loved, and will respond in appreciation to being loved.
  - The husband will be exalted and respected, which is a fundamental desire of the man's heart.
  - Children will have, from a human perspective, the privilege of growing up in a godly home.
  - Society will be preserved.
15. In order to be a biblical husband, God comes to give grace, to get the job done in the redeemed sons of Adam.