



Focus on YOUR Family

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Rev. J. Weston Ministries

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Friends our God is a good God, God is a great God. He watches over us from the cradle to the grave. He orders our steps and prepares a place for us, Jesus tells us, that in His Father's house there is many a mansion and that He went away to prepare a place for us.

God has surrounded us with the ingredients for a wealthy life, one that is to be surrounded by family. We write this booklet now due to the transition period we will experience shortly, lives will forever change and as our graduates have gown off to college we think the thought we are about to explore might be helpful on their journey.

God has given us the blue print that will enable us to have healthy living and in the Book of Exodus he tells children the manner in which to conduct themselves in regards to our parents. The purpose of this quarter's booklet is to define the roles of family, to briefly touch on them.

The father has many roles in the family and depending on how many children can

directly depend on how many roles he will play as well as the usual roles of provider.

For our purposes we want to deal with three of these roles: A man and a father is a Leader, Laborer and Lover.

A father is a leader from the standpoint that he is the head of his family and should be a responsible member in the community; he needs to be above reproach.

As the children in his household will undoubtedly take their lead from their father, much like we take our lead from our Father.

But the leadership extends itself far beyond the home, he needs to be an example for others, especially children, through misfortune some children may not have a father or others who have one may not be able to communicate with the father in the house and may seek a legitimate figure to talk to, you never know the heart so you always may to be alert and responsible.

A father as a leader needs to do so by example. Children will remember what you do far after what you said fades away.

A leader is one who goes the extra mile to help, to heal and be responsible for his fellow man, woman and child. Leadership is often questioned rarely praised, leadership is important, because we always tell our children, do not follow but be the leader. Leaders with a properly disposed heart will not lead someone down the wrong road, into a blind alley. A leader is what God wants for His man to be for the good of himself, for others and the Glory of God.

A man is a Laborer, because the Bible clearly tells us that a man that does not work does not eat. If one does not work what does that leave him to do but steal and what kind of example is that? What does the European/American dream tell us, that if we work hard we can have it all, family, success, house, car, and money in the bank, children in good colleges etc? We are to further understand the adage that early to bed early to rise makes a man, healthy, wealthy and wise. This was not meant just as a clever way to rhythm words, no it sets about a thought in one's mind, get your rest because you have to get up early and go to work, you can not go out and play all night you can not go out and do things that will keep you away from getting up early and performing your responsibilities.

From this we can infer that what you do will keep those around you grounded as well, what you do will be an example for those children of yours to follow what you do will supply the comforts and necessities that are required. Now when we say laborer, we meaner worker, to perform work not necessarily hard work or back breaking work, whatever work is done is honest work and good and if it is hard back breaking work so be it, but you as a man have to do something that contributes to society, your family and the Father.

One example of a father setting a good example is the coroner of Jay County in the State of Indiana. He has been the coroner for the last 15 years and his daughter has just now become one of four examiners, by the way, she is all of 18 years of age.

Colossians 3:23 tells us, that whatever we do, we should do our work heartily, do it for the Lord and not men (paraphrased). This should give us a thought to work for God and not man, something we should do is view ourselves as a servant, Jesus came to this world not to be served yet to serve. Friends the path to success is servant hood, if you want to lead, adopt the attitude of a servant. This is not bowing down to

anybody; it is being humble and respectful. Try it!!

The man is a lover; I am not talking in a strict physical sense. Man must love the Lord God the Father and know that whatever he does represents his Father and is to the glory of his Father. For what is man that Thou art mindful of him and made him a little lower than the angels (the very ones that watch over us and keep us from even stubbing our foot). Man is God's greatest creation and part of the reason the devil fell out with God.

Man must love God with all His heart as God has loved us and his love must show in his actions as we represent God. Do not disrespect the Lord.

Man must love himself. Everyday man must perform at the level that he has attained and do it respectfully. If he has not reached the level he wishes he must operate in a fashion that gets him to the next level in an acceptable fashion. Everyday I monitor what I am wearing and make sure I look presentable for the coming tasks of my day, this does not mean my pants that belong around his waist wearing them around his thighs, that does not mean not lacing up his shoes, that is what shoe strings are for, shirts are for proper wearing and if I recall

headbands are for sporting events (participation).

Man must not disrespect other man with foul language, I am no one's dog or anything else, I am what God has made me, a great and wonderful creation, and I am made in His image and truly want others to see His work in me.

Please understand that if you call your friends "dogs" you will end up calling our daughters names that they are not and I do not want anybody calling my daughter something that she is not. I am not going to debate the issue of Don Imus, if he is a racist or not, but I do know that if the verbiage had not been used he could not have used it.

Even though the usage was out of order today's man is making a living off the terrible usage and further disrespecting our woman, himself and the Lord.

I do not know if one can ever love his family and friends as God has loved us, but we are called to try, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. The example of the Good Samaritan is moving and worthy and we should try it.

Woman, the apple of man's eye, the partner of man, the sharer of responsibility,

God gave Adam and Eve the job of naming all the creatures, woman the hand that rocks the cradle we reside for the formative years, woman, the incubator of the world. God choose woman to handle this responsibility as man just is not strong enough. Just like man needs God, man needs woman. Who was the lady that stopped David from killing her arrogant husband, because he was not respecting David's property?

Woman, the heart that makes a man what he is, every success that man finds a woman had something to do with. I look at President Bill Clinton, now his activities could have caused his elective efforts to be toppled but she did not and we as a nation enjoyed eight economic thriving years and today she is running for the same office. I am reminded of the Statue of Liberty, I see her standing there with her arms full, carrying a torch to lead the way and book for knowledge, asking for this world's tired, its poor its huddled masses. Woman the epitome of compassion.

The Bible has given us various examples of women, mothers, friends and what should be the correct manner in raising a family. Proverbs 31:25-31, tells us: The woman

devoted to God has strength and dignity, and she looks to the future with joy. She opens her mouth to give wisdom, and she provides good counsel to others. She watches over her family, and she is never idle. Her children sing her praises, and her husband extols her. A woman's charm can fool people, and a woman's beauty quickly fades away. But a woman's devotion to the Lord earns the true praise of everyone. From this we can explore some woman in the Bible.

Sarah, the Mother of Faith. She was wife to Abraham and God had promised a child and she thought she was too old, they had Isaac. Rahab, a Pagan woman from Jericho.

Now this woman did evil things, but when she saw the Power of God she changed her ways. She became a convert to the Jewish faith after her family was saved by Jewish spies who came to her city and she assisted them. She realized that tribes were about to attack her city and she knew God was with them and she acted to save her family. God often chooses those whom the world considers to be weak and makes them strong, take

Deborah, she was a judge in Israel and God would call them to lead His people whenever they were in danger from their enemies. God used His power to show

people that he could work through anyone He chooses. It was Deborah who gathered the forces and did battle completely defeating the enemy.

Ruth, a woman of Generosity. Ruth gave up everything that she had and was a woman of great courage. Ruth was a pagan but when all the men in her family passed, she told her mother in law that she would go with her wherever she went and "Your people will be my people and your God my God." She moved with Naomi to Bethlehem where God blessed Ruth and she also gave birth to a child who was to become the grandfather of King David. Hannah, a woman who trusted in God. Hannah prayed to God to remove her curse of being childless and promised God that if she were given a child, that child would be dedicated to the service of the Lord. Within the next year she gave birth and when the child was old enough she took him to the shrine of God where Samuel went on to become a most powerful judge and prophet.

Michal, Abigail and Bathsheba, the wives of David. Michal was a princess and daughter of King Saul. She saved David's life. Abigail was a simple woman; she brought peace wherever she went. Bathsheba would do anything to get her way. From these three women we learn,

Michal is a warning to love rather than use people. Abigail is an example of goodness, and Bathsheba is an example of the power a woman can have to do good or evil. Judith, a widow who saved her nation. She is an example that God does protect His own, no matter how many outnumber you and the battle just does not seem able to be won, you with God are more than a majority. In this case, the general Holofernes and circled to destroy Judah and all the Jews were ready to surrender, Judith told her people they should pray and rely on God. After praying, Judith went to the enemy camp, ate with Holofernes, after he had drank too much she cut his head off, the army of Judah attacked and defeated their enemies.

Movies have been made about Esther the Queen and I do not believe she can be spoken about too much. Esther was wife to a king of Persia, the Jews were living in that land in exile and of course many enemies were there, including Haman, an official who convinced the king to put the Jews to death. Esther, prayed and asked for guidance, then she prepared a meal for Haman. Esther went to the king and the king punished all enemies of the Jews, and he started with Haman. Even today the Queen is celebrated with the feast of Purim. Mary, the mother of Jesus. God took a simple girl from Nazareth to affect the entire

world for an indefinite amount of time, notice a woman is the integral part of this greatest story.

Mary trusted in God and told Him, "Your will be done." She bore the Child and had to flee Egypt in order to escape Herod. When Jesus left home to preach Mary remained at home and again trusted in God, she was under the cross when Jesus died, after Jesus rose from the dead He took Mary body and soul to heaven, where she rests and listens to our prayers and comes to our aid.

Martha and Mary, sisters of the risen Lazarus. These two and the faith in Jesus to go to Him and tell Him that if He had been there their brother would not have died. Just like the woman with the issue of blood faith had been rewarded.

Mary Magdalene, the first to see the risen Savior. Mary had been sick and was told to have had seven demons. Jesus prayed and freed her from these demons and for this Mary was grateful, not in words but in actions.

Mary followed Jesus and the 12 around and helped to take care of their collective needs, she helped with cooking, shopping, and washing the clothes. Mary was at the

foot of the cross when Jesus died even though most of the 12 disciples had fled. Then on that Sunday morning it was she who went to the garden where Jesus was buried to anoint His body. She found the tomb empty and met Jesus. She ran off to spread the Good News to the disciples and the other friends of Jesus.

These examples of women are great but do not stop here. The greatest examples of bold feminine faith were the women prophets. Now these ladies spoke with clarity and the direct words of God to His people. They gave the bad news with the good. These women have been commemorated not for their domestic skills, child bearing abilities, or beauty, but for their bold declarations of God's Word.

Take for instance Huldah, who told King Josiah that God would bring judgment upon Judah. Anna, who after seeing the Baby Jesus continued to speak of Him to all those looking for redemption of Jerusalem. Lastly, Blandina, who was hung before wild beasts to devour her for not denouncing her faith, when this did not work she was tortured to death with a young boy.

From these examples of women we can learn character, honesty, love, kindness, courage, strength, determination, compassion as well as beauty. All these abilities make men and their children who they are, Thank God for putting Adam to sleep.

Lastly, let us discuss the role of children. I believe the Book of Exodus is a great reference for all of us in regards to this God given gift. I would like to tell you that there is no such thing as an illegitimate child, only illegitimate parents. A child is to be raised with love and tenderness and disciplined accordingly.

My first thought of the role of a child goes back to the first grade where it was imbedded in me to: Honor thy father and mother, that it might be well with The and thou mayest live longest on the earth. Wow, that can really be intimidating and should be taught appropriately because if not it can lead a young mind down an incorrect path. The environment that a child grows up in will affect its whole life. Family dynamic's, parents' behavior impacts the perspective of a child.

A child should follow a right minded parent. Look at 1Kings 15:8-35, the path of destruction for an entire family and generations to come are made by example. Look at King Asa, a man who followed in David's footsteps and pleased God, compare Asa's story with that of Nadab, a man who practiced the evil of his father King Jeroboam and provoked God. Asa took away the sodomites out of the land, removed all the idols his father had made and even his mother Maachah he removed from being queen because she had made an idol in a grove, Asa destroyed her idol and burnt it by the brook Kidron.

Now Nadab, began to reign over Israel in the second year of King Asa and reigned for two years. The evil he did in the sight of the Lord caused him to walk in the way of his father and his sin made Israel to sin. My point, just like every action has a reaction.....good behavior will last through the ages and bad behavior will spread its seed throughout the land and cause problems.

I look at the children of Israel in the valley, wondering in the desert for 40 years. Wondering in a place that was hot, barren why they had to get water from a rock, they

had to get manna in the morning and meat in the evening, delivered from the Lord all because they were hard headed and "stiff-necked". I want to let you know that the place where they ended their journey is a 14 hour ride by bus, yet it took them 40 years by foot, camel whatever. I can faithfully tell you that God was disciplining His children.

It was appropriate as when children do get out of line God clearly tells us to spare the rod and spoil the child. I do not believe that Dr. B. Spock ever had children and yet he could tell us not to spank, here the father has countless as He makes His instructions clear. The Bible is clear of instruction for our children and It tells as to bring up a child in the way of the Lord and when they get older they will not depart. In know way am I giving children a "pass" but no matter what we do as parents we have to give the children a proper start and we are assured that they may get lost, that is why Jesus is here for us to help us find our way and He has left the Holy Spirit to stay with us, but if they have good training they will get back on the right road.

It is so important to filter only what is right to children because young minds are very impressionable so just like we feed our bodies healthy fare we must do the same for our children.

You have to have Bibles open in the household, story time for the child and not always have them in front of cartoons and a computer, interact with your child you will be surprised and pleased at what you see comes from this interaction. I will share something with you, sometimes I am so tired and just want to do what is needed and be

able to relax, if I am asked to go to the store I go, then my child asks can he come and I am immediately boosted in spirit. It is a compliment that your child wants to be with you to share time and thought, this can not be overlooked or underappreciated.

I have a friend that got such a lasting birthday gift that they give reason for whatever status they have attained to date to this gift. It was her 13 birth date and she wanted a couple things that she did not get, to that she was temporarily down but when her father got home, she was presented with a little blue box with a gold ribbon. Its content was a note that gave her 30 minutes a day with her father, 30 minutes of just one on one no interruptions, and in these 30 minutes they could discuss whatever she wanted or just the two of them sit and watch television. That gift brought a young girl unsure of her herself out and turned her into a confident young woman and now a senior executive for a fortune 100 company.

My point is that you must put time in to get the desired results. This by no means exempts a child from the responsibilities of the home and being responsible but we have to be very careful what goes in, when it goes in and how it goes in.

In conclusion, we appreciate the time you have taken to read this booklet, we hope that our thoughts might be beneficial in some manner; because the family is the most important resource we have and can share. As these words are being written we would like to remind you that while it is important to take care of your family, the family is extended all across this world and needs to be cared for. As a nation of believers we must follow the Golden Rule and Love our neighbor as ourselves, when we see someone that needs help try to nothing delights that Father more than to know that His highest form of creation is doing for each other and sharing what they with their fellow man, woman or child.

All things in life are temporary and even the next day is not promised but to know that we have done something that pleases the Lord can be life changing and is at least worth the positive feelings it makes you feel.

We lovingly encourage you to keep your hand in the Hand of the never changing Hand of the One Who has promised to hold our right hand and tell us to fear not for He will be with us.

May God continue to bless and keep you!!!!

