

Bringing Home Bacon!

The first thing everyone thinks of when someone might say “Bringing in the Beacon” would be money. Course that is one aspect of providing for the home as a man. But today I would like to look at some other very important issues that provide stability to the Home, especially as a father!

The most important step as a father is to understand the responsibility we have been privileged to bare! And allow the Lord to establish the boundaries to build a solid foundation for our children to stand upon! Because...

¹ Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain. **Psalm 127:1 (KJV)**

Our children are our Heritage....

³ Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. ⁴ As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth.

⁵ Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. **Psalm 127:3-5 (KJV)**

As the video pointed out there are a few things men should enjoy, as they model what Father should like as they lead their family... Lawn mowing, grilling multiple varieties of meat out on the grill, Building Stuff with tools, saying things on trips like “Don’t make me pull this car over”, Keeping the emotions in check in the good and bad times, Always Reflecting Jesus, Praying with the Kids, Giving Bear Hugs, and Showing your Kids How much they are Loved, Leading them to Jesus, which is the MANLIEST thing a Father can do, is to be a Godly Dad!

Bill Farley is a retired pastor, he is also a father, grandfather, and author of *Gospel Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting*. He was asked the question...What is the significance of a dad's leadership in family discipleship?

Bill Farley said: The big significance of a father is very simple: he is the one who is called by God to Spiritually lead out in discipleship!

Here is the Husband/Father’s main responsibility.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **(To show your children what it looks like to love your wife, their Mom!)**

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.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (KJV)

The Bible repeatedly commands fathers to raise up children in the way they should go. That command is given to the wife/mother as well, but unless the father is not spiritually leading his Family, Her role is to be supportive.

²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.* **Ephesians 5:24 (KJV)**

His role is to take responsibility and to lead the family spiritually. No one can substitute for that incredible responsibility. Nothing is as effective nor more important than dad's taking up his leadership position as the leader of his home.

Bill Farley went on to say: Family devotions are just part of the package. A father's own spiritual example is crucial. How his kids perceive his relationship with Christ, and whether it's driven by **passion** or whether it's driven by religious **duty**, is crucial to the kids as they grow up. Kids are watching all the time.

When you're doing family devotions, you're teaching your children the priorities of God's Word! But you're also modeling for them what is most important to you, and this type of modeling is essential. Every time you meet for family devotions, you're saying to your kids, "This is the most important thing. Our home revolves around Christ, not our children, or our felt needs, and that is a point that goes in deeply and stays with kids for a lifetime.

I've never had to say to any of my grown children, "you need to do family devotions."

But they have all married Christians and they're all doing family devotions and praying daily with their children, our Grandchildren without me or Susan having to remind them. They knew it to be important because it was modeled before them. It would be hard for you to overestimate the faithful long-term impact of consistent family devotions with your children.

Many dads know they should lead in family discipleship, but studies show there's a gap between those who know they should lead, and those who are consistently leading in something so simple but powerful like the family devotions.

Here are some challenges that are causing that gap...

One of the big challenges among men is a feeling of inadequacy. Men look around and think, "You know I'm not perfect, how could I lead my kids?" Or "my wife knows the Bible much better than I do; maybe she should lead the family."

The other problem is he's distracted. Dad just doesn't see the long-term impact of family devotions. Maybe he's thinking, "Oh, this is just a religious duty and it's not going to have any big impact. My kids are just going to grow up and they're going to think, 'I don't want to be involved in that same kind of legalism that my parents were involved in.

But our experience is just the opposite. When they have a loving home build by honoring God's Word, and you lead by example, and enjoy the journey yourself and have fun, It will have a long-term impact on your kids and they'll want to do the same when they grow up and have their own families.

There are two other texts on parenting in the New Testament and they both say similar things.

⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4 (KJV)** ²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged. **Colossians 3:21 (KJV)**

The root of it all goes all the back to the Old Testament...

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (KJV)**

To every dad hearing this message, pick up the mantle of discipleship and study to show yourself approved and "Bring Home the Spiritual Beacon" and lead by example your children to Jesus! Let go and let God's Holy Spirit flow through you and make an Eternal impact on your children!