



"Managing What Matters Most"

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I. Your _____ is a Sermon

1 Timothy 3:2 "Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach"

A. Husband of _____ Wife

1. You Must Be Married?

2. Married Only Once?

3. A Call to Purity and Faithfulness

B. A "One-Woman Man"

II. Your _____ is Your Primary Assignment

(1 Timothy 3:4-5)

A. _____ Your Household Well

B. Your Children _____

1 Timothy 3:4b "with all dignity keeping his children submissive"

Luke 10:33-34 "But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him."

Titus 1:6 "if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination."

Psalm 78:4 "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."

Psalm 78:6-7 "that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments"

Joshua 24:15 "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

III. The Danger of Misplaced Priorities

Mark 8:36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

A. Too Many Examples

1. Eli – the _____ Father

1 Samuel 3:13 "And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them."

2. David – the _____ Father

3. Samuel – A Righteous Man With _____ Sons

1 Samuel 8:1-3 "When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice."

4. Hezekiah – A Successful King but the Father of Manasseh (2 Kings 20-21)

5. Lot – _____ Leadership (Genesis 13-19)

B. A Higher Calling

Psalm 127:3-4 "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth."

1. Be _____

2. Be Intentional

Ephesians 6:4a "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger"

Ephesians 6:4b "but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

3. Be _____

4. Be Protective

5. Be _____

Psalm 103:13 "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him."

IV. The Gospel is for _____ Parents



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BACKGROUND:

We learned from our sermon series in Ephesians that God has a design for the family and how we are to lead the home. This importance of leadership becomes apparent when we consider that how we lead our home reflects our ability to lead others. As Christians we all have a leadership role and responsibility to help others to become more Christlike. That is the heart of discipleship. Everyone in the church shares in this responsibility, not just elders, pastors, and deacons. Whether you are a spouse, parent, child, sibling, relative, friend, classmate, neighbor, citizen, employer, or employee – you are leading and influencing someone. Leadership skills begin at home. They reflect your ability to lead others. They should reflect spiritual growth, obedience, submission, wisdom, integrity, love, and respect.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Paul provides specific characteristics that measure one's spiritual maturity and ability to lead others. Afterall, elders and deacons are primarily responsible for shepherding the church. Just as parents are responsible to shepherd their families.

1. How does being above reproach, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, and able to teach affect your ability to lead at home?
2. How does spiritual maturity impact your overall witness and ability to influence others?
3. Is there a particular characteristic you struggle with? How can your group support you with this?

Paul's emphasis on family management reflects the reality that one's ability to maintain their household with order and personal integrity (or not) can indicate if they are qualified to shepherd and lead their church.

4. How do you model Christlike leadership in your home?
5. What was the household like when you were a child? How might this have affected the way you manage your own household today?
6. How do people observe your interactions with your family and how does that affect how they perceive and/or trust you as a leader?

Personal integrity and family integrity are interwoven. The child reflects the ethics, morals, and values of the parent. They are a product of the parents' leadership. King Solomon wrote, "The righteous who walks in his integrity – blessed are his children after him" (Proverbs 20:7).

7. What do you look for in a person, or their family, to determine their level of integrity?

8. Why is godliness, self-control, respect, and order important considerations when looking to family leadership?

As we learned in our study of Ephesians, we are to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21). Mutual submission is the overarching principle that guides the hierarchy and function of the family dynamic. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25), sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25), in a loving and respectful way (1 Peter 3:7), raise his children in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). He is to provide for his family (1 Timothy 5:8). The wife is her husband's helper (Genesis 2:18). Although she is an equal and contributing partner in the marriage, her primary area of influence is the home (Proverbs 31:10-31). She is to submit to her husband's leadership as he submits to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24). Children are to obey their parents in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1). Children should honor their father and mother (Exodus 20:12) while parents are not to provoke their children to anger (Ephesians 6:4).

9. How is that when parents exemplify obedience and submission, they are teaching their children how to properly respond to God?

10. Husbands, wives, and children are all equal in value before God. How do their distinctive roles compliment one another in fulfilling God's plan for the family?

11. How can these attributes translate into influencing and leading others?

TAKING IT HOME:

We learned from last Sunday's sermon, "Growing in Spiritual Maturity", that when we are faithful with little, we will be faithful with much (Luke 16:10). Not that managing a household is a "little" thing. It's a huge responsibility and blessing. How we lead the "few" in our family can be an indicator of how we may shepherd "many" in the church. That is why Paul emphasized that we focus on family leadership.

12. How can we support one another in developing spiritual maturity required for godly leadership?
13. How do the qualifications listed for elders and deacons impact the overall health of the church?
14. What can you do differently to help yourself grow in spiritual maturity and leadership within your family and the church?
15. What is one specific thing that God has shown you through this weeks message and how will you allow Him to work in your life regarding it?