

How To Be A Father 4050

I. Basic Principles Of Family Life

- A. Fatherhood is eternal in God
- B. Every earthly father represents God to his family
- C. The chain of authority: God the Father ➡ Christ ➡ Husband ➡ Wife
- D. The father represents Christ in three main ministries:
 - 1. Priest
 - 2. Prophet
 - 3. King

II. Biblical Patterns Of Fatherhood

- A. Gen. 7:1—*Noah's* righteousness obtained admission to the ark for his whole family.
- B. Gen. 18:17–19—God chose *Abraham* because He could count on him to fulfill his responsibilities to his family. From this would result national greatness.
- C. Josh. 24:15—Because *Joshua* was faithful as Priest, Prophet and King to his family, God gave him the privilege of making decisions that were effective for his whole family.
- D. Job 1:5—*Job* ministered as a true Priest for his family.
- E. Mark 9:22–23—The *father of the epileptic boy* exercised faith for his son's deliverance.
- F. Acts 16:31—The gospel gives to *each father* the right to believe for the salvation of his family.

III. Results Of Father's Failure

- A. Deut. 28:41—Children become a curse instead of a blessing
- B. Hosea 4:6—A generation of God-forgotten children
- C. Mal. 4:5–6
 - 1. The earth smitten with a divine curse, behind which lies the sinister power of *witchcraft*
 - 2. German proverb: "To *become* a father is not hard, but to *be* one is very hard
- D. 1 Tim. 5:8
 - 1. The key word is "provide."
 - 2. A father must provide for his family on two levels:
 - a. Material, as "breadwinner"
 - b. Spiritual, as priest, prophet and king

IV. Six Practical Steps To Fulfilling Your Responsibilities As A Father

- 1. Recognize your position
- 2. Admit your failures—to God and to your family
- 3. Accept your responsibilities
- 4. Review your priorities—give time to the things that matter most
- 5. Trust God to supply the *grace* you need
- 6. Upon this basis, God will honor your *office*