

Building a Godly Man
Lesson 3 – The Father – Son Relationship
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Introduction: Fathers have a crucial role in the training up of their sons.

- A. The tragedy of this age is the destruction of the father-son relationship. **(Heb 12:7-9)**
1. Many mothers are never entering marriage or have been divorced. In many communities the vast majority of boys do not live with their dads.
 2. Even when dad is in the home there is little significant interaction with his son.
 3. We are seeing multigeneration families with no fathers in the home.
(Deut 5:9-10)
- B. There are unique needs that a son has in his upbringing.
1. In the beginning he is close and naturally attached to his mother.
(Prov 29:15; 30:17; 31:1)
 2. As he grows older, he naturally will seek to grow closer to his father and wants to learn to be a man! **(Prov 4:1-5)**

“A boy has an additional developmental task – to disidentify from his mother and identify with his father.” – A Parents Guide to Preventing Homosexuality

I. Teach your sons to trust God

- A. The essence of the fathers work with his sons is to “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” **(Eph 6:4)**

Admonition - teaching, admonition, warning, ethical and corrective instruction in regard to belief or behavior.

1. Teaching should include all interactions with your sons. In many ways these interactions teach him what God is like! **(Ex 34:6-7)**
 2. A good teacher will seek to continually improve. There is also a humility that seeks help and seeks greater wisdom.
 3. If we are to serve our sons, we must have a servant’s heart! **(Phil 2:3-4)**
 4. What happens with the father gets caught up in pursuing idols? **(Col 3:5-6)**
- B. Help your sons to find “heroes” in the people of God. One of those heroes will be you! **(Jer 9:23-24)**
1. Our sons will know what we get excited about and what we want to know.
 2. How can the Bible become something more than external knowledge. Consider helping your sons discuss and see Bible characters as real!
 3. There also should be modern “heroes” of faith.
 4. There will be needed intervention when worldly heroes are sought after.
 5. What kind of opportunities are placed before us at the various stages of our sons lives? How do we know if we are getting through?

II. Take the time to show and teach the courage to do what is right

- A. Men must develop courage to stand and to lead. **(Josh 1:7; 23:6; 2 Chron 32:7-8)**
1. Men are wired to be competitors and to fight. That desire must be brought under the control and direction of the Lord!

2. Real courage that will stand in all circumstances *comes from the Lord*.
(Ps 27:13-14; 31:21-24)
 3. Godly men know the importance of *clearly identifying God's way* (principle) and boldly standing against the majority.
- B. What are some of the bedrock principles that must be found in a godly man?
1. He must *put others first*.
 2. He must *tell the truth*.
 3. He must *refuse to participate* when others practice and approve of sin.
 4. He must come *to work and earn his own way*.
 5. He must *give to those in need*.
 6. He must
- C. Our sons must be tested and then be helped to learn from those tests.
(Ex 20:20; Deut 8:2; Jer 17:10; 20:12)
1. What is the difference between a temptation and a test?
 2. One of the greatest mistakes parents make is to “rescue” their children from *important tests of faith*! (Ex. Conflicts between school, sports and church)
 3. Here is where *our personal courage and wisdom* will be tested!
 4. What does a successful test *look like*? (Jas 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-5)

III. Teach your son to find fulfillment in work

- A. God's word directs *man to work and earn a living*. Work is honorable.
1. God described creation as His “work.” (Gen 2:2)
 2. Before the fall man was involved with work that involved *both physical labor and mental labor*. (Gen 2:15, 19-20)
 3. Afterwards God showed *the necessity of work and its difficulty*. (Gen 3:17-19)
- B. How did God's Son spend *the majority of His life*? (Mk 6:3)
1. He received training from His father and was with him in that work.
 2. Jesus was around 30 years old when He began to preach!
- C. God directs us *to honest labor*. (Eph 4:28; 2 Thess 3:12; Lk 10:7)
1. We can work for another and receive wages.
 2. We can have our own business by the principle of exchange (Buying and Selling)
(Mt 13:44-45; Acts 16:14)
 3. We can invest and receive a share of a business. (Mt 25:27)
- D. What should be *our attitude towards honorable work*?
1. The same as God! This is *a matter of faithfulness*. (2 Thess 3:10-12)
 2. When we work God is our boss. We should *give our best*! (Col 3:22-24)
 3. We can steal by failing to do our best.

IV. Learn from your mistakes as a father and correct them quickly

- A. All parents will make mistakes. How *you handle mistakes* is an opportunity to teach!
(Eph 4:32)
- B. We can show what it *really means to trust God*! (1 Pt 3:8-12)