

# **Father's Day**

by Abri Brancken – 4 Sept 2016

## **Title:**

**Choose this day whom you will serve**

## **Scripture:**

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."

## **Introduction:**

### **The idiot**

The media and Hollywood often portrays fathers and men as weak, incapable of doing anything great, fools and idiots, insecure, the joke of the day, goofy, stupid, lazy person, etc. Media shapes opinion and we are seeing a negative representation in the media of what it means to be a real husband and father.

### **The macho man**

On the other hand, they also portray a true man is hard, non-forgiving, the macho man that dominates his family, always away from his children and disloyal to his wife. We see this in the media and after a while these images begin to affect us in a negative way.

## **TV Examples**

### **1. The Simpsons**

Homer Simpson is fat, lazy, stupid.

### **2. Family Guy**

### **3. Home Improvement**

The man of this show is Tim Taylor who is always doing something wrong on his own little show called "Tool Time."

### **4. Everybody Loves Raymond**

The main character, Ray Barone is a sports writer who is still seen as a goof and a joke on most occasions.

### **5. Futurama**

Another show where the main character Fry, is just another stupid clumsy male.

### **6. American Dad**

Stan Smith, the husband, is seen as an over the top macho man who's usually doing a lot more harm than good for the family and sometimes the town. He is portrayed as an idiot.

## **How men often feel:**

Men often feel insulted or just feel like it's a joke to become a husband and a father? Many men today are struggling with an identity crisis. They don't know who they are and they don't know how they are supposed to function in their homes and in society. The world has an idea of what a man should look like, but let's take a look at what God says about fathers and men.

### **Absent fathers**

Many fathers are there, but they are missing. Many dads and husbands today are "missing in action." They might be physically alive or even living with their families at home, but they are completely missing in all of the ways that their kids and spouses need them. Why? I believe it's because most men didn't grow up with a dad or someone who modelled for them what it looks like to be a husband and father.

### **What the Bible says about husbands and fathers**

God has given guidelines to govern the physical family, as He has for the spiritual family.

#### **1. Family is God's idea**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." - Genesis 2:18

Family, marriage and having children is God's idea. In this family, every member has an important role to play. Man and women is not in competition. It is not about importance; it is about function.

#### **2. The father is to provide spiritual direction**

As Christ is the Head of the Body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23), the husband and father is the head of the physical family to guide them into the purposes of the Lord.

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. - 1 Cor 11:3

In order to be and do this, fathers need to spend time with God and in His Word.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. - Prov 22:6

#### **3. A father is called to Prayer & Intercession**

For some reason, men tend to leave this area to their wives. The husband should be the number one prayer warrior in the family. Husbands and fathers should offer prayers of protection and covering to their wives and children.

Satan desires to attack and destroy your family. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12) This battle is one that can only be won in prayer. It is only by battling in prayer that men can truly protect their families.

#### **4. Teacher**

The husband and father should teach his family Biblical truth, morals, ethics, principles, etc.

#### **Eph 6:4**

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In the Bible, the entire household was led by the man of the house (Genesis 18:19; Joshua 24:15).

#### **5. Protector**

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. - 1 Corinthians 16:13

The godly husband is responsible for the physical security of his family.

#### **6. Provider**

A husband will never be able to truly influence his wife if he does not care for her. He can demand and she may follow as a result, but he will never truly have her heart unless he provides for her needs, cares for her well-being, and protects her and the children.

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8).

#### **7. Discipline**

A father provide love, correction to his children. To work towards developing his children into God's ways, for them to grow in wisdom and stature, favour with men and God. A father should lay a solid foundation in his children's lives Prov 22:6. He needs to discipline (Correct) himself and family members when they depart from rightful living.

Prov 13:24 A father disciplines his children, show them the right path when they make mistakes.

#### **8. Stand for what is right**

##### **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."

So then, dear brothers and sisters, be firm. Do not be moved! Always be outstanding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Men must remember their role as of the Lord, for they under Christ and have a great responsibility (I Cor 11:3).

James 5:8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

## **Conclusion**

If you have not been a dedicated husband and father, repent, and give yourself to the Lord. He can heal all the wounds. Maybe you grew up and you had an absent father. You don't have to be the same, you can choose to be different. Wives and children, support your husband and father in the role and position that God has called them for. The world will tell fathers who they think we need to be and who we need to worship, but may we echo the words of Joshua in the Bible;

"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." - Joshua 24:15

## **Questions to think about:**

1. How important is it really for a husband and father to spend sufficient time with God?
2. Try to think of at least three men in the Bible whom you would consider to be a God fearing and faithful husband and father.
3. Lastly, what things do you need to change in your life in order to become the husband and father we have discussed.