

Godly Leadership/Godly Atmosphere in the Home

These are the words Pastor Dan Lindsey spoke at Home School meeting in Madison, WI in September 2012. Dan and Connie were part of a panel addressing Godly Leadership in the home.

Recently we have had a skunk living next door to our church. I think he has taken up residence under an abandoned vehicle. When I go to the church during the week - I often smell "skunk." And when people have come to church recently they comment on the skunk smell. Nobody likes it. When we turn on the air conditioner it brings in outside air - and with it - the skunk smell.

In contrast to that, remember the woman who anointed Jesus Christ with her ointment. That perfume not only was on her, and on Christ, but permeated the whole atmosphere of that home that day. Everyone left with a bit of that beautiful smell of "worship" on them.

Godly leadership in the home is not so much an event, as it is an atmosphere, the atmosphere of Christ permeating the family. I Timothy 2:2 reminds us **"...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."**

The Bible is clear that the father in the home is to be the godly leader. I Corinthians 11:3 says, **"But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ: and the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God."** Notice that God the Father is the "head" of Jesus Christ. Even in the Trinity there is leadership. Jesus said, **"My Father is greater than I."** God the Father is in the greater position. However, Christ would also say, **"I and my Father are one."** So there is an equality, a oneness.

Ephesians 5:21-25 also mentions that the husband is the head of the wife, and that he is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. This is a loving, sacrificial, shepherd leadership.

When I was a child, my grandfather took our family to a very small museum in Iowa. It had animals on display, all of them dead. There were two headed cows and pigs and other two headed animals. Most were fetuses or babies, because two headed animals don't usually survive very long. So it is in the home - the father is to be the head, the godly leader.

One super important issue concerning spiritual leadership is the matter of hypocrisy. Over the years, I have noticed that in some churches a generation or two is missing - and one of the big reasons was hypocrisy in the home. Dad can't just play at being the spiritual leader. If all dad and mom do is take their children, even faithfully, to church, but there is no spiritual leadership at home - the children will see the hypocrisy. Ephesians 6:24 says, **"Grace be with**

them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.” There must be sincerity at home in order to have that godly, Christ-like atmosphere.

Deuteronomy mentions that we are to talk about God when we get up in the morning, talk about God throughout the day, and talk about God before we go to bed at night. That is part of that godly atmosphere. However, it is also important to have a daily time when the whole family gets together to talk about God, especially concerning His Word.

Proverbs 4:1 says, “**Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.**” This verse indicates that a father is to instruct his children, and that they are to be attentive to what he says. In fact, the book of Proverbs is really a father talking to his son. One way to train children to listen to the Bible at church is to read the Bible at home and teach them to listen there. I Timothy 5:4 says, “**...let them learn first to show piety at home...**” Piety means reverence, godliness and devotion. **The first place we are to learn reverence for God is not at church - it is at home.**

When the father leads the family worship time it sends a message that he is the spiritual leader in the home.

Some years ago Connie and I attended a Christian conference that talked about having a family worship time, but outside of telling us to read the Bible and pray, very little information was given about how to do it. **Here are some possible things to help:**

1. Approach Family Worship Time with liberty rather than legalism.

The goal is not to be able to say, “We have devotions every day,” rather it is to have a devoted family.

2. Read

Of course, you may just read the Bible.

We have read Bible story books, great devotional books, and traveled through a simple theology book together.

3. Listen/Discuss

You can listen to the Bible on CD or mp3.

You can listen to the complete New Testament in around 12 minutes a day.

Have discussion concerning what you read or hear. For example, if you read a story from a Bible story book, discuss the practical application for today.

4. Tie in church with home by discussing the preacher’s messages.

Ask what was learned in church, and discuss the principles of the sermon.

You might want to provide paper for your children to take notes.

5. Memorize a Bible passage.
Type it up and post it in your home in several locations.
Say it out loud every day.

6. Pray
Close out the Family Worship Time by prayer.
The prayer should be brief, but not shallow.
Vary the prayer based on the needs of that particular day.
Pray for your children and wife by name.

7. It is probably best to let the phone go unanswered during Family Worship Time.
Let it go to the answering machine, unless it is an emergency.

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