

Husbands, Fathers, Sons: Men

1. Husbands: 1 Pet 3:1-7

- a. In this passage women and men are urged to “lead from the front.” Arguing someone into compliance is not an option.
 - If one’s mate is not walking with God, actions will speak louder than words in seeking to reach them.
 - The term “*likewise*” in verse 7 indicates that what applies to the wife in the preceding context (vs 1-6) applies to the husband.
- b. When someone finds themselves “spiritually single” it can be hard. But:
 - Men are to love their wives and not to be harsh (or “embitter”) with them.
 - Men are to remember:
 - * To dwell with their wives with consideration, as unto the “weaker vessel.” Men are generally physically stronger than their wives. They are not to use that against them.
 - * Also, if the wife voluntarily defers to her husband’s leadership in the home, they have made themselves vulnerable to get hurt should their husband abuse his position.* He is to keep this in mind and be wise / considerate in his interaction with her.
 - * She is not only his wife but his sister in Christ and a joint heir. His dealings with her should reflect this.
- c. Fathers are training their sons to be husbands and dads and they often do not think about this. What they see you do will affect how they treat their own mates. Be wise. Speak to her and about her with respect. Never run her down to anyone, especially your children.

2. Father’s. Deut 6:1-8, Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:22

- a. In Deut parents are to “impress or whet” these commands and get them to pierce the minds of their children. Not just in a formal “teaching” at home but in the course of daily life (as one works, walks, rests etc.). This is how our Lord taught His disciples. He used everyday things to illustrate truth.
- b. Not only are parents to teach their children but they are to live with them with consideration, not demanding more of them than they can give. There must be discipline but also encouragement and counsel.
 - One can greatly discourage a child by over-controlling them. With responsibility comes freedom. And with needed correction must also come affirmation and encouragement.
- c. As our children become adults our role changes. Grown children’s autonomy must be respected. But - although the ministry of dad may change, the commitment does not. Pray for, encourage, admonish, enjoy fellowship with your adult children.

3. Sons. Mk 7:5-23, 1 Tim 5:8, 1 Thess 4:11-12, 2 Thess 3:6-15

- a. They learn about life largely from we, their parents.
- b. They learn about caring for their family.
- c. They learn about labor, responsibility and handling money.
- d. They learn how to be men and how to love their families.

It is a life-long ministry and its affects will outlast us.

- * It is a matter between the individual and God. Compliance cannot be enforced. Don’t use “weapons” (e.g., withholding finances, harsh/abusive speech, withholding affection, etc.).