

# Fathers: Saving the Next Generation

A Strategic Offensive for Family Leaders  
Reb Bradley



## I. What does it mean that a man is the head of his family?

### A. Headship means men must

*Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:8-9; Gen 2:18*

for the home.

*Eph 5:23 For the **husband is the head of the wife** as Christ is the Head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; 1 Tim 5:8; Ex 6:14; 6:25; Num 1:4; 7:2; 31:26; 32:28; 36:1; Josh 21:1; 22:14; 1 Ki 8:1; 1 Chr 5:15, 24; 7:2, 7, 9, 11, 40; 8:6, 10, 13, 28; 9:9, 13, 33, 34; 15:12; 23:9, 24; 24:4, 6, 31; 26:21, 26, 32; ;27:1; 2 Chr 1:2; 5:2; 19:8; 23:2; Ezra 1:5; 2:68; 3:12; 4:2, 3; 8:1, 29; 10:16; Neh 7:70, 71; 8:13; 11:13; 12:12, 22, 23

What might the following symptoms signify in a home? They are signs of leadership

- > Dad comes home from work and consistently retreats from the family.
- > Wife is always stressed out over home management.
- > Husband always looks to wife for direction, ie: "What are we doing tonight, Dear?"
- > Dad typically responds to kids' inquiries, "I don't know, go ask your mom."
- > Husband is too intimidated by his wife to give direction to the family.
- > Husband depends on wife to decide when it is time to gather the kids and leave an event.
- > Husband pressures wife to financially bailout the family.
- > Husband relies upon wife for all spiritual training of children.

### B. The father's responsibility includes

of the children's

*Ephesians 6:4 **Fathers**, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up** in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*Psa 78:3 what we have heard and known, **what our fathers have told us.** 4 **We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.** 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. (See also Prov 4:1-2; 3:1; 7:2)*

## II. What obstacles commonly hinder men from assuming proper oversight of their families?

### A. We misunderstand

, so remain

as leaders

#### 1. We mistakenly think strong leadership is

not

*1 Pet 3:7 **Husbands**, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner...*

*Col 3:19 **Husbands**, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.*

2. We are too \_\_\_\_\_ and fear that \_\_\_\_\_ our wives makes us to them

*Mat 20:25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

*John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

3. We must follow Christ's example as a

B. We \_\_\_\_\_ in some way and \_\_\_\_\_ our children's

*Gen 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?**"... 5 "**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**"*

C. We become \_\_\_\_\_ our leadership calling.

*2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, **your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.***

1. We are drawn to \_\_\_\_\_ of self

*1 John 5:21 Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

> An \_\_\_\_\_ is anything other than God in which we

a. Career/ministry

b. Hobbies/pastimes

c. Possessions

d. Accomplishments/reputation

e. Family

2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ up in

*2 Pet 2:19b ... for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.*

> Our family needs us to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ from

D. We become \_\_\_\_\_ – depression, guilt, self preoccupation

*Revelation 12:10-11 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For **the accuser of our brothers**, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

*Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and **Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.***

1. We must that God is

*Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

*Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And **I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.***

2. We must believe that our weaknesses from God's love or power

*2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure **in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

*2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

*Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, **we were reconciled to him** through the death of his Son, how much more, **having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!***

> We must believe that God as weak vessels

E. We have no leadership so merely the  
*Prov 29:18a Where there is no vision, the people perish...*

1. True leaders have a direction and seek to take followers there

2. Every leader must first have a general goal

> General goals: Long range objectives based on personal values

3. To accomplish the general goal a leader must have a plan made up of specific goals

> Specific goals: Smaller, shorter range goals which help accomplish long range goals

**SAMPLE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR A FAMILY LEADER:**

GOALS FOR FAMILY: Home projects, New residence, Spiritual development, Health, Finance

GOALS FOR ONESELF: Career, Marriage, Personal growth/Disciplines, Ministry

GOALS FOR WIFE: Spiritual nurturing, Stress relief, Rest and leisure, Household order/help

GOALS FOR CHILDREN: Education, Character, Habits, Discipleship, Life skills, Future Roles

**Sample Goal and Plan:**

GOAL 1 Get finances in order

PLAN No more checks – start cash-in-envelope system

Buy envelopes on way home today

At 11 AM create a budget to determine how much cash is needed each month

Cut up VISA

Starting this month deposit paycheck on payday, withdraw needed cash

III. What is God’s top goal for us as family leaders?

We must give our children the Jesus Christ

1. Receiving the gospel is more than our children the

2. It is daily you you that Jesus is Lord

3. It is daily you for them that God is and

> A child who grows up seeing that Jesus is will come to believe he is

> The generation who believes that Jesus is worth living and dying for will the at them.