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- ◆ **Fathers are to reverence God**
- ◆ **Fathers are responsible for the family**
- ◆ **Fathers are role models for the family**

When a father understands God's love and then demonstrates love within the family, conflicts are often eliminated.

Mark 12:29-31

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

NKJV

Fathers are to Reverence God

Prov. 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 9:10

10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Prov 10:27

27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Prov 14:26-27

26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

Prov 15:33

33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom,
And before honor is humility.

The father who fears God will fear to sin. Job 28:28 puts it like this:

*8 And to man He said,
'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,
And to depart from evil is understanding.'*

Fathers are Responsible for their family

Eph 5:23

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Prov 1:8

8 Hear, my son, thy father's instruction, And refuse not the teaching of thy mother;

Prov 4:1-5

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.

2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.

3 When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother,

4 he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart;

keep my commands and you will live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.

NIV

Prov 13:1

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

NIV

Example: II Kings 3:25-27 – The king of Moab was so bent on winning the battle to Israel that as a last result, he sacrificed his only son, the heir to the throne.

Fathers are Role Models for the family

The definition of role model:

Col 3:21

21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

NASU

Col 3:21

21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

NIV

Eph 6:4

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

NASU

Pat Morley, in his book “Seasons of Reflection and Building,” gave this statement:

Ephesians 6:4 tells us to build up our kids “in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Fathers cannot leave the teaching of godly truths, principles, precepts, and values only to moms, teachers, preachers, and youth pastors. Today more than ever before, we need to be proactive in teaching our children a Christian worldview. The responsibility for passing on the truth to our children rests primarily with us! Are you taking the lead in your family in living and teaching the Christian worldview?

We also learn from Malachi 4:6 – He will convince parents to look after their children and children to look up to their parents. If they refuse, I’ll come and put the land under a curse.

(The Messenger Bible) A Prophetic Word spoke also use as Parent and children relationship.

Introduction: Malachi gets the last message before we go into the New Testament.

At a 1994 Promise Keepers’ conference in Denton, Texas, pastor James Ryle told his story:

When he was two years old, his father was sent to prison. When he was seven, authorities placed him in an orphanage. At nineteen, he had a car wreck that killed a friend. He sold drugs to raise money for his legal fee, and the law caught up to him. He was arrested, charged with a felony, and sent to prison.

While in prison James accepted Christ, and after he served his time, he eventually went into the ministry. Years later he sought out his father to reconcile with him. When they got together, the conversation turned to prison life.

James’ father asked, “Which prison were you in?”

James told him, and his father was taken aback. “I helped build that prison,” he said. He had been a welder who went from place to place building penitentiaries.

Pastor Ryle concluded, “I was in the prison my father built.”

A father’s example builds a place to live for his children. Will it be a house, or a prison?

Larry Pillow

In the 1993 movie *In the Line of Fire*, Clint Eastwood played Secret Service agent Frank Horrigan. Horrigan had protected the life of the president for more than three decades, but he was haunted by the memory of what had happened thirty years before. Horrigan was a young agent assigned to President Kennedy on that fateful day in Dallas in 1963. When the assassin fired, Horrigan froze in shock.

For thirty years afterward, he wrestled with the ultimate question for a Secret Service agent: Can I take a bullet for the president?

In the climax of the movie, Horrigan did what he had been unable to do earlier—he threw himself into the path of an assassin’s bullet to save the chief executive.

Secret Service agents are willing to do such a thing because they believe the president is so valuable to our country and the world that he is worth dying for: Obviously they would not take a bullet for just anyone.

At Calvary the situation was reversed. The President of the Universe actually took a bullet for each of us. At the Cross we see how valuable we are to God.