

**MEN! WINNING THE WORLD STARTS IN THE HOME
EPHESIANS 5:25-6:4**

INTRODUCTION. 1). THE LAST 25 YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY KIND TO MEN. “MALE BASHING” HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A FAVORITE AMERICAN PASTIME. THIS SPORT REACHED SOMETHING OF AN APEX IN FEBRUARY 1994. THAT YEAR THE COVER STORY OF THE FEBRUARY 14 EDITION OF *TIME MAGAZINE* FEATURED ON ITS COVER THE BODY OF A MAN AND THE HEAD OF A PIG! THE TITLE OF THE LEAD ARTICLE, “ARE MEN REALLY THAT BAD?” THE CONCLUSION WHICH THE ARTICLE DREW WAS “YES, THEY ARE!”

- WHEN YOU NEED THEM, THEY’RE NOT THERE.
- PUT YOUR TRUST IN THEM AND THEY’LL LET YOU DOWN.

*AND JUST THIS APRIL (2003) *THE ATLANTIC ONLINE* RUNS THE STORY “THE RETURN OF THE PIG!” FIRST LINE: “HAVE YOU NOTICED MALE CHAUVINISM IS MAKING A COMEBACK?”

*FORTY YEARS AGO TEEN IDOL PAUL PETERSEN HAD A TOP TEN HIT TITLED “MY DAD” WITH LYRICS LIKE:

“HE IS EVERYTHING STRONG, HE CAN’T DO WRONG...WHEN I BRING HIM TROUBLES TO SHARE, OH, HE’S ALWAYS THERE, MY DAD...”

BUT TODAY, THE SONGS OF THIS GENERATION CONVEY A DIFFERENT TUNE:

BLINK 182’S “STAY TOGETHER FOR THE KIDS”

“RATHER THAN FIX THE PROBLEMS THEY NEVER SOLVE THEM. IF THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS AND THIS IS WHAT SHE WANTS, THEN WHY IS THERE SO MUCH PAIN?”

OR

CHAD KROEGER OF NICKLEBACK IN THE SONG “TOO BAD”

“FATHER’S HANDS ARE LINED WITH GUILT, FOR TEARING US APART.”

OR

EVERCLEAR'S "FATHER OF MINE"

"MY FATHER GAVE ME A NAME THEN WALKED AWAY...I WILL NEVER BE SAFE, I WILL NEVER BE SANE, I WILL ALWAYS BE WEIRD INSIDE, I WILL ALWAYS BE LAME."

OR

JACOBY SHADDIX OF PAPA ROACH IN "BROKEN HOME"

"MY WOUNDS ARE NOT HEALING; I'M STUCK IN BETWEEN MY PARENTS."

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH *BLENDER* MAGAZINE, TOM DELONGE, LEAD SINGER OF BLINK 182, SAYS "IS THIS A DAMAGED GENERATION? YEA, I'D SAY SO."

("CHILDREN OF DIVORCE,"

CHICAGO SUN TIMES, JUNE 10, 2003)

2). SOUTHERN BAPTISTS HAVE A DIFFERENT MESSAGE WE WISH TO TELL: A CHRISTIAN MAN SURRENDERED TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST WILL BE A DIFFERENT MAN. HE WILL BE THE LEADER OF HIS FAMILY AND ONE WHO KNOWS, LOVES, AND OBEYS THE BIBLE. HE WILL BE A MAN OF CONVICTION AND COMMITMENT, COMPASSION AND CHARACTER. HE WILL BE A MAN WHO LOVES HIS WIFE AND BLESSES HIS CHILDREN. HE WILL BE A MAN WHO BELIEVES THAT "WINNING THE WORLD TO CHRIST STARTS IN THE HOME."

TRANSITION. EPHESIANS 5:25-6:3 HAS 2 SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD COMMANDS FOR A GODLY, SPIRIT-FILLED MAN IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS FAMILY AS HE LEADS THEM (CF. EPH. 5:18):

- I. HUSBAND LOVE YOUR WIFE.
- II. FATHER BLESS YOUR CHILDREN.

I. HUSBAND LOVE YOUR WIFE. 5:25-33

WORD LOVE (6X) PAUL MAKES CRYSTAL CLEAR ITS NATURE.

- 1). **LOVE HER SACRIFICIALLY. 5:25**
 - MORE WILLFUL THAN EMOTIONAL
 - LOVE IN ACTION

- IN 1998 THE SECULAR MEDIA EXPERIENCED SOMETHING OF A “WORLDVIEW CONVULSION” WITH THE ADDITION OF ARTICLE 18 ON THE FAMILY. FOR SOME STRANGE REASON ALL THEY COULD SEE WAS THE STATEMENT, “A WIFE IS TO SUBMIT HERSELF GRACIOUSLY...TO HER HUSBAND.” APPARENT AFFLICTED WITH SOME FORM OF “MYOPIA” THEY MISSED WHERE IT SAID: “A HUSBAND IS TO LOVE HIS WIFE AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH” AND THAT HE IS TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY “SERVANT LEADERSHIP.” MEN: WE DO LEAD!
 - MEN, WE ARE NOT THE CEO OF OUR HOME, A FRUSTRATED DRILL SERGEANT BARKING OUT ORDERS. WE ARE LEADERS, GOD’S LEADERS, SERVANT LEADERS, SHEPHERD LEADERS WHO WILL LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN GOD HAS GIVEN US.
- 2). **LOVE HER SANCTIFYINGLY.** **5:26-27**
- HELP NOT HINDER HER IN BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS.
 - YOU STRIVE TO MAKE HER SUCCESSFUL IN THE EYES OF GOD.
 - YOU CARE FOR HER WITH A GOAL OF SEEING HER CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.
 - IF YOU DISCIPLE ANYONE, IT WILL BE YOUR MATE AND YOUR CHILDREN.
- 3). **LOVE HER WITH SENSITIVITY.** **5:28**
- TO LOVE HER IS TO KNOW HER.
 - TO LOVE HER IS TO REALIZE SHE IS MORE LIKE A CAT WHILE YOU ARE MORE LIKE A DOG!
**IS IT A CAT / WOMAN IT MAY BE BOTH!
WHY?**
1. THEY USUALLY DO WHAT THEY WANT.
 2. THEY RARELY LISTEN TO YOU.
 3. THEY’RE TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE.
 4. THEY WHINE WHEN THEY ARE NOT HAPPY.

5. WHEN YOU WANT TO PLAY, THEY WANT TO BE ALONE.
6. WHEN YOU WANT TO BE ALONE, THEY WANT TO PLAY.
7. THEY EXPECT YOU TO CATER TO THEIR EVERY WHIM.
8. THEY'RE MOODY.
9. THEY CAN DRIVE YOU NUTS AND COST YOU AN ARM AND A LEG.
10. THEY LEAVE HAIR EVERYWHERE.

**IS IT A DOG / MAN IT MAY BE BOTH!
WHY?**

1. THEY LIE AROUND ALL DAY, SPRAWLED ON THE MOST COMFORTABLE PIECE OF FURNITURE IN THE HOUSE.
2. THEY CAN HEAR A PACKAGE OF FOOD OPENING HALF A BLOCK AWAY, BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU WHEN YOU'RE IN THE SAME ROOM.
3. THEY GROWL WHEN THEY ARE NOT HAPPY.
4. WHEN YOU WANT TO PLAY, THEY WANT TO PLAY.
5. WHEN YOU WANT TO BE ALONE, THEY WANT TO PLAY.
6. THEY ARE GREAT AT BEGGING.
7. THEY WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER IF YOU WILL JUST FEED THEM.
8. THEY LEAVE THEIR TOYS EVERYWHERE.

9. THEY DO DISGUSTING THINGS WITH THEIR MOUTHS AND THEN TRY TO GIVE YOU A KISS.
10. THEY CAN LOOK DUMB AND LOVABLE ALL AT THE SAME TIME.
- BEING SENSITIVE MEANS THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU DO AND SAY, AVOIDING, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT JOHN GOTTMAN CALLS “THE 4 HORSEMEN WHO DESTROY MARRIAGES.”
 - CRITICISM
 - DEFENSIVENESS
 - STONEWALLING
 - CONTEMPT
- 4). **LOVE HER SATISFYINGLY.** **5:29-30**
- ISSUE OF PRIORITIES FOR LIFE, FAMILY AND MINISTRY
 - STEVEN OLFORD AND HEATHER: MARRIED 55 YEARS ON JUNE 30 (1948). HIS PRIORITIES: CHRIST, WIFE, CHILDREN, AND MINISTRY
SUNDAY—KING’S DAY. MONDAY—QUEEN’S DAY
 - **NOURISHED—FEED HER**
 - **CHERISHED—HONOR HER**
- 5). **LOVE HER SPECIFICALLY.** **5:31-33**
- MAKE A COVENANT WITH YOUR EYES. JOB 31:1, “I HAVE MADE A COVENANT WITH MY EYES; WHY THEN SHOULD I LOOK (LOOK INTENTLY OR GAZE) UPON A YOUNG WOMAN?”
 - MAGAZINES, T.V., MOVIES, INTERNET!!
HAVE EYES FOR YOUR WIFE.
 - MAKE A COVENANT WITH YOUR LIFE!
 - ONE WOMAN MAN (1 TIM. 3:2)
 - NEVER ALONE WITH ANY WOMAN OTHER THAN YOUR WIFE! (CURSE OF COUNSELING!)

- SPENDING TIME TALKING WITH WOMEN MORE THAN YOUR WIFE IS THE WAY OF A FOOL!

II. FATHER BLESS YOUR CHILDREN. 6:1-4

- TO THE MINISTER PAUL WRITES IN 1 TIM. 3:4-5, YOU MUST BE ONE WHO, “RULES HIS OWN HOUSE WELL (EXCELLENTLY), HAVING HIS CHILDREN IN SUBMISSION WITH ALL REVERENCE (FOR IF A MAN DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO RULE HIS OWN HOUSE, HOW WILL HE TAKE CARE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD?).”

1). FATHER EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN. 6:1-3

- BETTER LIFE/LONGER LIFE IS GOD’S PROMISE TO CHILDREN.
- MUST SPEND TIME WITH THEM, THE MOST VALUABLE COMMODITY ON THE MARKET TODAY.
- MUST DISCIPLINE THEM. TWO EXTREMES YOU MUST AVOID:
 - TOO MANY RULES/REGULATIONS
 - NO RULES/REGULATIONS
- JOKES ABOUT RAMBUNCTIOUS AND REBELLIOUS PREACHER’S KIDS, DEACON’S KIDS IS NO JOKE, BUT AN EMBARRASSMENT THAT WILL STRIP YOU BARE OF CREDIBILITY.
- MEN: DO NOT NEGLECT THE ISSUE OF TIME. DO NOT NEGLECT THE IMPORTANCE OF TALKING.
 - “HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A FATHER WHO WON’T TALK TO HIS DAUGHTER? MY FATHER DOESN’T SEEM TO KNOW I’M ALIVE. IN MY WHOLE LIFE HE HAS NEVER SAID HE LOVES ME OR GIVEN ME A GOODNIGHT KISS UNLESS I ASKED HIM TO.

I THINK THE REASON HE IGNORES ME IS BECAUSE I’M SO BORING. I LOOK AT MY FRIENDS AND THINK, “IF I WERE FUNNY LIKE JILL OR A SUPERBRAIN LIKE SANDY OR EVEN OUTRAGEOUS LIKE TASHA, HE

WOULD PUT DOWN HIS PAPER AND BE FASCINATED.”

I PLAY THE RECORDER, AND FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS I’VE BEEN A SOLOIST IN THE FALL CONCERT AT SCHOOL. MOM COMES TO THE CONCERTS, BUT DAD NEVER DOES. THIS YEAR, I’M A SENIOR, SO IT’S HIS LAST CHANCE. I’D GIVE ANYTHING TO LOOK OUT INTO THE AUDIENCE AND SEE HIM THERE. BUT WHO AM I KIDDING? IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.”

ABIGAIL WOOD, “THE TROUBLE WITH DAD.” *SEVENTEEN*, OCTOBER 1985, P. 38.

2). **FATHER ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN. 6:4**

- JUNE 1995 *READER’S DIGEST*. 1/3 WOULD GIVE AWAY DAD RATHER THAN THEIR TV.
- DAD, WHO DO YOUR CHILDREN WANT?
WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY WOULD MOST LIKE TO HAVE WITH THEM IF STRANDED ON A DESERTED ISLAND, 29% OF GENERATIONS SAID, “MY PARENTS.” THE OTHER REQUESTED ITEMS WERE MUSIC (24%), A COMPUTER (21%), BOOKS (15%), AND TELEVISION (10%).—*TIME*, JUNE 20, 1997, PAGE 22
- DAD, WHO DO YOUR CHILDREN ADMIRE?
A SURVEY WAS TAKEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. GRADUATE STUDENTS WERE ASKED WHERE THEY GOT MOST OF THEIR IDEAS ABOUT MORALITY AND RELIGION. THE MAJORITY SAID, “THROUGH CONVERSATION WITH THE FAMILY AT MEALTIMES.” *UPLOOK*, JUNE 1997, PAGE 26
- IN A RECENT NATIONAL SURVEY, TEENAGERS NAMED THEIR PARENTS AS THEIR #1 HEROES. (*NEWSWEEK*, MAY 11, 1998, P. 51)

IN A RECENT POLL OF 272,400 MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RESPONDENTS RANKED PARENTS AS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFLUENCE IN THEIR LIVES AND RELIGION AS SECOND. HOWEVER, 26% SAID THEY FEEL THAT ADULTS DON'T VALUE WHAT KIDS THINK. —PASTOR'S WEEKLY BRIEFING, JULY 3, 1998, PAGE 2.

- DAD, WHO DO YOUR CHILDREN WANT TO PLEASE?

“LONGER, DADDY, LONGER...” BY JOHN TRENT

RECENTLY, A WOMAN GRABBED MY ARM AT A CONFERENCE AFTER I HAD FINISHED SPEAKING ON THE ENORMOUS NEED WE ALL HAVE FOR AFFIRMATION.

“DR. TRENT, MAY I TELL YOU MY STORY?” SHE ASKED. “ACTUALLY, IT’S A STORY OF SOMETHING MY SON DID WITH MY GRANDDAUGHTER THAT ILLUSTRATES WHAT YOU’VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT—THE IMPORTANCE OF AFFIRMATION.

“MY SON HAS TWO DAUGHTERS, ONE WHO’S FIVE AND ONE WHO IS IN THE ‘TERRIBLE TWOS.’” WHEN A GRANDMOTHER SAYS THIS CHILD IS IN THE “TERRIBLE TWOS,” BELIEVE ME, SHE IS!

“FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MY SON HAS TAKEN THE OLDEST GIRL OUT FOR A ‘DATE’ TIME, BUT HE HAD NEVER TAKEN THE TWO-YEAR-OLD UNTIL RECENTLY. ON HIS FIRST ‘DATE’ WITH THE YOUNGER ONE, HE TOOK HER OUT TO BREAKFAST AT A LOCAL FAST FOOD RESTAURANT.

“THEY HAD JUST GOTTEN THEIR PANCAKES AND MY SON DECIDED IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO TELL THIS

CHILD HOW MUCH HE LOVED AND APPRECIATED HER.”

“JENNY,” HER SON HAD SAID, ‘I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU, AND HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE TO MOM AND ME. WE PRAYED FOR YOU FOR YEARS, AND NOW THAT YOU’RE HERE AND GROWING UP TO BE SUCH A WONDERFUL GIRL, WE COULDN’T BE MORE PROUD OF YOU.’”

ONCE HE HAD SAID ALL THIS, HE STOPPED TALKING AND REACHED OVER FOR HIS FORK TO BEGIN EATING...BUT HE NEVER GOT THE FORK TO HIS MOUTH.

HIS DAUGHTER REACHED OUT HER LITTLE HAND AND LAID IT ON HER FATHER’S

HAND. HIS EYES WENT TO HERS, AND IN A SOFT, PLEADING VOICE SHE SAID, “LONGER, DADDY...LONGER.”

HE PUT DOWN HIS FORK AND PROCEEDED TO TELL HER SOME MORE REASONS AND WAYS THEY LOVED HER AND APPRECIATED HER, AND THEN HE AGAIN REACHED FOR HIS FORK. A SECOND TIME...AND A THIRD... AND A FOURTH TIME HE HEARD THE WORDS, “LONGER, DADDY...LONGER.”

THIS FATHER NEVER DID GET MUCH TO EAT THAT MORNING, BUT HIS DAUGHTER GOT THE EMOTIONAL NOURISHMENT SHE NEEDED SO MUCH. IN FACT, A FEW DAYS LATER, SHE SPONTANEOUSLY RAN UP TO HER MOTHER AND SAID, ‘I’M A REALLY SPECIAL DAUGHTER, MOMMY. DADDY TOLD ME SO.’”—*STORIES FOR THE HEART*, QUESTAR PUBLISHING 1996.

- DAD, WHO DO THEY COUNT ON?
“LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY”

I READ THIS STORY IN *READER'S DIGEST* SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND I'VE PROBABLY TOLD IT 10 MILLION TIMES, BUT I STILL CANNOT TELL IT WITHOUT GETTING A LUMP IN MY THROAT.

ONE DAY, A FATHER TOOK HIS TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN FOR A RIDE IN A PONTOON BOAT. THEY WERE TRAVELING DOWN THE RIVER WHEN SUDDENLY THE MOTOR STOPPED. WHEN THE FATHER LOOKED BEHIND HIM, HE NOTICED SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE RED SWEATER TANGLED UP IN THE PROPELLER. THEN HIS YOUNG SON YELLED, "SHERRY FELL IN!"

IN HORROR, THE FATHER SAW HIS LITTLE GIRL ENTWINED IN THE PROPELLER OF THE BOAT. SHE WAS SUBMERGED JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, LOOKING STRAIGHT ONTO THE EYES OF HER FATHER AND HOLDING HER BREATH.

HE JUMPED INTO THE WATER AND TRIED TO PULL THE MOTOR UP, BUT THE HEAVY ENGINE WOULDN'T BUDGE. TIME WAS RUNNING OUT. DESPERATELY, THE FATHER FILLED HIS OWN LUNGS WITH AIR AND DIPPED BELOW THE SURFACE, BLOWING AIR INTO HIS DAUGHTER'S LUNGS.

AFTER GIVING HER AIR THREE TIMES, THE FATHER TOOK A FILET KNIFE FROM HIS SHOCKED SON'S HAND. HE QUICKLY CUT THE RED SWEATER FROM THE PROPELLER AND LIFTED HIS DAUGHTER INTO THE BOAT. ALTHOUGH SHE HAD SURVIVED, HER DEEP CUTS AND BRUISES NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION, SO THEY RUSHED HER TO THE HOSPITAL.

WHEN THE CRISIS WAS OVER, THE DOCTORS AND NURSES ASKED THE GIRL, “HOW COME YOU DIDN’T PANIC?”

“WELL, WE’VE GROWN UP ON THE RIVER, AND MY DAD ALWAYS TAUGHT THAT IF YOU PANIC, YOU DIE. BESIDES, I KNEW MY DADDY WOULD COME AND GET ME.”

DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT YOU WOULD COME AND GET THEM, NO MATTER WHAT? IF HE WAS BUSTED IN A DRUG RAID, WOULD YOU GO AND GET HIM? IF SHE GOT CAUGHT BEING A PROSTITUTE, WOULD YOU GET YOUR LITTLE GIRL? IF YOUR SON WAS DRUNK ON SKID ROW, WOULD YOU DISOWN HIM?—FOCUS ON THE FAMILY, MAY 1996, P.1.

CONCLUSION. MY GODLY GRANDDADDY (IF TIME) TO BE A GREAT MAN DOES NOT REQUIRE A GREAT MIND, IT SIMPLY REQUIRES A GREAT HEART, A HEART FOR THE LORD, THE LADY HE GAVE YOU, AND THE CHILDREN THE TWO OF YOU SHARE. I’M CONVINCED WINNING THE WORLD STARTS IN THE HOME. MEN, LET’S MAKE SURE WE START WHERE WE SHOULD.