

How to be An Influential Father

ARBC – 6-19-11

Genesis 6:5-14

Today across America...we are honoring our Fathers. Since 1922...the third Sunday in June has been set aside to pay tribute to our Fathers.

God commands us in Exodus 20:12 to "honor your father and you mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."

Do you know why God commands us to honor our fathers? Well...one reason is because of the meaning of the word "father." In the verb form...the word "father" means "the founder...to be the foundation...to author."

You Fathers are the authors of your home! And God wants you to author a God-loving ...God-fearing...God-honoring home!

Men...listen this morning to the instructions that God has given us in Psalm 78:5-7, "For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may raise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments."

Fathers...God has commanded us to teach our children and to point our children to Him and here's why: So that our children may have confidence in God and keep His commandments.

The New Testament tells us the same thing in Ephesians 6:4, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

And the word translated "admonition" means to put something into the mind. Fathers...you are to be putting something into the minds of your children...namely ...the Word of God!

Psalm 119:11, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

Now from Genesis 6...I want to show every man this morning how to

be an influential Father! If there was ever a generation that needed godly...influential Fathers it is this generation!

Noah was living in similar days. God describes the days of Noah in the first 4 verses of Genesis 6. Noah's days were filled with Apostasy (a falling away from God). They were days of Anarchy and days of Apathy! It sounds like modern America! Apostasy...Anarchy...and Apathy!

Verse 5, "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Noah lived in the worst of times!

Don't you know it was difficult to raise a godly home in that environment? Cheer up Dads...it is possible!

We can raise godly children in this wicked and perverse generation! But know this: we are the key just as Noah as the key for his home!

So what was it about Noah that made him an influential Father? More important than that...how can we be influential Dads?

(1) Noah was a Faithful Man.

That is how Noah influenced his family toward the things of God: He was a faithful man! Now don't you think for a second it was easy either! In fact...he was the only person on the planet that had a heart for God!

Sometimes we get to thinking that we are the only Christians at school or at work or on the team or in the band and we use that as a cop out for not being faithful to God! But Noah really was the only saint!

Like his Great Grandfather Enoch before him...Noah walked with God. Look down to verse 9 for a minute. Do you see the word "generations?"

It comes from a Hebrew word that means "to go in a circle."

Just as a planet goes in circles around the sun...Noah's life revolved around God. The main attraction of his life was God! He was more attracted to God than the things of the world!

Verse 9, "... Noah was a just man (in right standing with God), perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."

And Dads...if you are going to influence your family...your children...your grandchildren toward the things of God: Walk with God!

And look again at Noah's world! Verses 11-12, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth."

God had had enough! In verse 13 God says, "I will destroy them with the earth." In other words, 'Judgment Day is coming.' And then God told Noah in verse 14 to "make yourself an ark of gopherwood, make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch." (Tar – waterproof)

Do you think Noah was qualified to build an ark? He was a preacher! He preached for 120 years **without a convert!**

And as he preached with his voice...he built with his hands and all the while...his neighbors laughed at him. Can't you imagine how difficult it was being Noah's kids?

Don't you know that their classmates gave them a hard time? "Isn't it your Dad that is building that boat? Is he crazy or what?"

But look how faithful Noah was in verse 22, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

Now...Noah knew that judgment was coming! Right? Sure he did! God had warned him! But do you know why God warned him? Verse 8, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

God warning him was an act of grace! And by the way...God always warns before He sends judgment! And do you know why God always warns before He sends judgment? Because He wants you to be prepared!

Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

Philippians 2:9-12, "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Well...if there was ever a Father that influenced his children and family...it was Noah! And here is how he did it:

(1) Noah was a Faithful Man.

(2) Noah was a Family Man.

Never underestimate the influence of a Father! Here was a man who influenced his entire family toward God.

Now...Noah was saved and do you know how? How is anybody saved? By faith!

Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household..."

Were those Old Testament people saved? Did they go to heaven and if so, how?

All of those Old Testament people were saved the same way all of the New Testament people were saved: by faith in Jesus! The only difference was that the OT people were saved by looking forward to the cross and the NT people and beyond were saved by looking backward to the cross and we are all saved by the sacrifice Jesus made upon the cross and defeating death.

Now Noah's faith in God was not transferable...but it was contagious! His family was saved the same way he was saved: by grace through faith!

Genesis 7:1, "So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his son's wives, went into the ark..." And that ark is a picture of Jesus!

You see...the water was God's judgment. And as they entered into the ark of safety ...they were protected from the judgment of God! Not one drop of God's judgment touched them.

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..."

And just as there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...there was no condemnation to those who were in the ark of safety which was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And how did they get into the ark? The same way you get into Christ:

by grace through faith! Genesis 6:8, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah...prepared the ark..."

So how do you think Shem, Ham, and Japheth learned to become men of God? The same way they learned how to become men: By spending time with their Father!

How do you think boys learn how to become men? Dr. James Dobson's research has discovered that when a boy is born...he is bonded to his mother.

But when he turns two years old until around five years old...he becomes emotionally detached from his mother and attached to his Father or the closest male figure.

Proverbs 29:15b, "A child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

You can con a con and you can fool a fool, but you cannot kid a kid! What every child needs from their father is Direction!

The average five year old spends 25 minutes a week interacting with their Father. That's about 3.5 minutes a day. That same child spends 25 hours a week watching television!

Now you tell me: who is raising our children? Who is teaching them morality? Who is teaching them God's design for marriage? No wonder our homes are in trouble!

Dads...what your children need more than gold and gadgets is you! They don't need substitutes! They don't want things to play with or a car for graduation as much as they want your presence and influence!

In 1974 a song entitled "Cats in the Cradle" was released. Here are the words:

"A child arrived just the other day, He came to the world in the usual way, but there were planes to catch, bills to pay. He learned to walk while I was away.

And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew, He'd say, 'I'm gonna be like you, dad. You know I'm gonna be like you."

My son turned ten just the other day. He said, "Thanks for the ball,

dad, come on let's play. Can you teach me to throw?"

I said, "Not today, I got a lot to do." He said, "That's ok." And he walked away, but his smile never dimmed. Said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah, You know I'm gonna be like him."

Well, he came from college just the other day, so much like a man I just had to say, "Son, I'm proud of you. Can you sit for awhile?" He shook his head, and he said with a smile, "What I'd really like, dad, is to borrow the car keys. See you later. Can I have them please?"

I've long since retired and my son's moved away. I called him up just the other day. I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind." He said, "I'd love to, dad, if I could find the time."

You see, my new jobs a hassle, and the kids got the flu, But it's sure nice talking to you, dad. It's been sure nice talking to you." And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me, He'd grown up just like me. My boy was just like me."

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the moon. "When you coming home, son?" "I don't know when, But we'll get together then, dad. You know we'll have a good time then."

What a tragedy to be a successful businessman and a failure as a Father.

According to the recently released US CENSUS BUREAU...in the last ten years... children born into homes with unmarried parents have risen 77%.

Homes led by single Moms have grown 25%. And homes led by single Fathers have grown 62%.

25% of the families in America are now made up of Father and Mother and their children.

33% of all children born are born out of wedlock. The family is in trouble and especially if you have boys.

The same census has found that sons are now 3x's more likely to be on drugs than daughters. Sons are 12x's more likely to commit suicide than daughters. 95% of juvenile court cases involve boys!

And if that isn't enough...the divorce rate among Christians has now caught up with the divorce rate among non-Christians! Dads...your children are watching you for an example just as Shem, Ham, and Japheth watched their Dad for an example! And what they see...they will magnify!

How are you going to explain to your children that Jesus and His church are your priority when you are taking them to soccer on Sunday rather than to Sunday School?

What are you saying to your children when tennis camps take precedence over church camps? Or when little league takes priority over Vacation Bible School? It's time you wake up and get going!

Now our time is about spent...but let me just mention two more things from the life of Noah.

- (1) Noah was a Faithful Man.
- (2) Noah was a Family Man.
- (3) Noah was a Faltering Man.

Though he was not an absentee Dad...he was not an all-together Dad! Genesis 9:18-25...Let me say to the children here today that your Dad may be a Faithful Man and a Family Man...but he is not a flawless man! Your daddy is not perfect!

The Bible says that Noah walked with God and yet...he stumbled! He was not perfect! He made mistakes and your Father will make his mistakes too!

One day the school teacher, after correcting class papers, said to a student, "I don't see how one person can make so many mistakes on his homework." The student replied, "It wasn't just one person ...my Dad helped."

Dads...I don't know about you...but knowing that I have the potential of faltering keeps me more focused on Jesus! Noah's sin led to his son to sin and God cursed the entire family lineage!

Genesis 9:25, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."

- (1) Noah was a Faithful Man.
- (2) Noah was a Family Man.

(3) Noah was a Faltering Man.

(4) Noah was a Forgiven Man.

God made a covenant of forgiveness with Noah. Genesis 9.11-13,16-17 ...

A pastor friend sent me a email the other day entitled: "All I Need to Know, I learned from Noah's Ark."

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't everything. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you are stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God there is always a rainbow waiting.

Let's never get to the point where we say, "I would never do that." Dan McKinnon said, "Be aware that a halo has to fall only a few inches to become a noose."

You see I believe that there by the grace of God, there goeth I.

Just this last week a pastor friend of mine lost his church of 18 years from pornography.

This Friday night I will be speaking about this subject to our men at our men's meeting this coming Friday night in the gym. Guys sign up for good food and fellowship.

Dads...lets renew our determination this Father's Day to be men of God... spiritually leading our families toward the things of God!