

Sunday, June 20th, 2010 – Father's Day.

Living Hope EFC

Art Smith

The Role of Father's, as established by God.

ILLUS: Theodore Kaczynski, Unabomber. (I.D., 1996, Wikipedia)

- Known as Unabomber (university & airline bomber).
- Mail bombing spree that spanned 20 years, killing 3, injuring 23.
- Born in Chicago, excelled academically, accepted Harvard, age 16.
- PhD in math from Univ. Michigan, assist prof at Berkeley at 25.
- After two years, moved to Montana & lived as a recluse.
- Growing up, his parents didn't think church was a place to be. His mother said, "The Bible and the Christian story are a myth."
- Spent Sundays in pursuit of cultural excellence, trips to museums.
- Don't you wonder if things might have turned out differently...

No one sets out to have his or her child become a unibomber, or rapist, or thief, or murderer, or drug addict... But read the papers and you'll see that many a child grows up and suffers a dysfunctional life?

What will make the difference between a Ted Kaczynski and the adult you want your child to become? Can we give our kids an advantage?

- For best results, consult the Owner's manual! What does God say?

The Role of Father's, as established by God.

(We find the similar pattern as established for moms.)

1. Gen.2:24. His Inherent Purpose: To become one with his wife, and to prepare his kids to be family makers.

Gen.2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

(1) A dad's #1 human relationship in life is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. - Jesus said the same thing: **Matt.19:4-6.**

- **Marriage is God's 1st institution required for a functionable culture.**
- It is very difficult to raise godly offspring without mom & dad.
- **Mal.2:13-16.** The committed marriage gives our kids **advantage!**

¹³You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

¹⁵Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

¹⁶"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel.

(2) Moms & Dads prepare kids to leave home maturely. -**Gen.1:27-28**

So God created man **in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number**"; fill the earth and subdue it.

Even the secular world recognizes dad's importance for his kids.

ARTICLE: *Fathers' involvement and children's developmental outcomes*

- September 2007. **1.** Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University, Sweden **2.** Center of Clinical Research, Västerås County, Sweden **3.** Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia **4.** National Institute of Public Health, Östersund, Sweden

ABSTRACT This systematic review aims to describe longitudinal evidence on the effects of father involvement on children's developmental outcomes.

There is certain evidence that *cohabitation* with the mother and her male partner is associated with less externalising behavioural problems. Active and regular *engagement* with the child predicts a range of **positive outcomes**, although no specific form of engagement has been shown to yield better outcomes than another.

Father engagement seems to have differential effects on desirable outcomes by reducing the frequency of behavioural problems **in boys** and psychological problems **in young women**, and enhancing cognitive development, while decreasing delinquency and economic disadvantage.

Conclusions: There is enough support to urge both professionals and policy makers to improve circumstances for involved fathering.

POINT: *Dad's who spend time with their kids help them become well adjusted adults with less behavioral, psychological & economic problems*

- **Absentee dads** (physically, emotionally or spiritually) will result in sons & daughters with more behavioral & psychological problems.
- Dad's help form masculinity of sons & femininity of daughters!

2. Exodus 20:12. His Inherent Value & Worth: Equal honor is due mother & father.

Exodus 20 ¹² "Honor your *father and your mother*, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Command: "Treat mom & dad with honor & respect, prize them highly!"

Eph.5:22-25. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

- While God's role for the husband is to be the head of the family, **this is not a matter of superiority but responsibility.**
- God defines the chief characteristic of a husband as "**loving as Christ loved the church.**" There was humility, not pride, in Christ's love.
- **I Pet.3:7** – Partners and heirs with you of the gracious gift of life.

POINT: **A son & daughter learn the value of marriage**, how a son is to treat his wife, how a daughter is to value her femininity – in dad's treatment of his wife. (To say nothing of marriage testimony of a Savior.)

3. Rom.3:23. His Inherent Deficiency: He cannot save kids from sin. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Dad's do not have perfect or sinless kids, & dad's tend to let them know it, more than mom's do. This is something we have to be careful of.

- IF God did not have perfect kids, what makes us think we will?
- We must prepare our children for heaven before they leave home.

4. Prov.1:8-9. His Inherent Opportunity & Responsibility: Teach his children God's Word/ Wisdom.

⁸ Listen, my son, to your *father's instruction* and do not forsake your *mother's teaching*. ⁹ They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

- Dads & Moms are teachers. **Every dad** must teach his child.
- Q/ Where does a dad learn what to teach his kids? > **2 Tim.3:16-17.**
- Dads have the opportunity to populate heaven with *their* children.
- Jesus instructed us to bring children to Him! **Mt.18:14** "Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost."

5. Ps.127:3-5. His Inherent & Unique Partnership with God: Creating life! God *gifts* dad's with children as "*rewards*."

³ Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. ⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Dad: is this the way you view your kids? As rewards from God.

- There is a trend in our day for many not even to have children?
- Would you say this is God's view of the value of kids?

THE SUMMARY PASSAGE: Eph.6:4. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

What exasperates a child?

(1) Dads who do not spend time physically, emotionally, spiritually

(2) Dads who give up on them. Whose expectations are too high.

(3) Dads who do not have a balance of love, discipline & instruction.

(4) Dads who do not give them a real identity, masculine or feminine.

(5) Dads who leave their mothers – in mid stream, & abandon them.

(6) Dads who give no absolute value system and no understanding of the purpose of life and eternity, and how to know the grace of God.

(7) Dads who never say: "I love you, I'm proud of you, you're good."

Based on the U.S. Census data and projections, there are 64,300,000 dads in our country. Of that number, there are **26,500,000 dads with children under 18** now living in the United States. That represents a whole lot of influence. *–Focus 6-18-10*

DADS: There are not guarantees how your child will turn out as an adult.

BUT the odds are much better when we follow the Owner's manual.

- Understand God's purpose, value, deficiencies & opportunities.
- Created in God's image, **you are God's partner** in populating earth, and populating heaven.
Nothing we possess has greater value!

Nothing you can give your child substitutes for a relationship with God.