

“POINT MEN”

Fathers at the Forefront of the Next Move of God

Father’s Day 2018

I. We Need a Front End Alignment

A. Testimony: The Car That Wouldn’t Run Right

1. About 30 years ago I bought Elizabeth a car she really wanted. It was a car with a brand name everyone considered one of the world’s best; a used car but still expensive. But there was a problem. The tires were not wearing evenly. I took it in for new tires. **But the dealer told me new tires wouldn’t help because the front end was out of alignment. Unless I fixed the alignment, the new tires would wear out like the old tires.**

2. I remember how God used that experience to teach me something about fatherhood and what it means to be a man.

3. God designed His creation putting man at the point; in the lead; at the “front end” of his family.

a. In the same way a good car won’t run right without a proper front end alignment, so marriage won’t run right without a man of God in the lead.

“If a man is out of alignment with God’s prescription for Kingdom manhood, it not only messes him up, but it can also mess up anyone who comes in contact with him, especially if they fall under his authority.”

Pastor Tony Evans

b. Every military platoon in the field has a “point man”, someone who takes the lead and makes sure the way is safe for those that follow; or a basketball team has a “point guard” to direct the offense. A poor point guard on the court can get you a loss. A poor point man in the military can get you killed.

B. So What’s Killing Us?

1. Ask 10 different people “what’s wrong with us today?” and you’ll likely get 10 different answers. (Politics; climate change; racial prejudice; the national debt)

2. But I suggest that fixing all these problems would be like putting new tires on Lizzie’s old car; nothing can be finally fixed if the front end is still out of alignment.

“We have a weak nation because we have weak churches. We have weak churches because we have weak families. We have weak families because we have weak men never challenged with the true biblical standard.”

Bill Gothard

3. Look at this quote in the context of our study of the 4 spheres of government in the Worldview series:

- Self government
- Family government
- Church government
- Civil government

a. Notice how Gothard works backward, tracing the root of the problem back to men, to husbands and fathers.

“Masculinity is vanishing. Throughout the land, fathers have lost their way to true manhood and have thrown responsibility to the wind. Sex roles are blurring, masculine leadership is disappearing, and like dominoes, homes and marriages are collapsing.”

Chuck Swindoll

4. Picture dominoes standing up close together on their ends; tip over the first one and all the others fall in turn. The key is the first domino. The “point” domino. The husbands and fathers.

“The Western world stands at a great crossroads in its history. It is my opinion that our very survival as a people will depend on the presence or absence of masculine leadership in millions of homes.”

Dr. James Dobson

5. The world is literally falling apart for the lack of functioning fathers. But it won't always be so. God has promised a better future in what I call...

C. The Surest Sign of the 2nd Coming of Christ

1. I have several dozen books in my library on the 2nd coming of Christ. *Most* of them base their predictions on world events, blood moons, or what's happening in Israel.

2. But almost *none* of them include a prophecy in Malachi at the end of the Old Testament...

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6

3. Jesus Himself identified John the Baptist as the one prophesied by Isaiah, who would "prepare the way of the Lord" in His 1st coming. But He also spoke of another "Elijah" who would come before His 2nd coming!

**And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him,
Matthew 17:11-12 NASB**

5. The 1st coming was a partial fulfilment of Malachi's prophecy; but it was not really the "great and dreadful day of the Lord", the Day of Judgment. That's the 2nd coming.

6. **This means that Fathers are God's "point men", called to lead their families, turn the hearts of the children, and deliver the earth from the curse. And they will!**

7. I speak from experience!

D. Testimony

1. I fell in love with Elizabeth on first sight! But 5 years into our marriage the tires were wearing out. (Mostly my fault).

2. I was a poor “point man”. The “front end” of our family was out of alignment!

3. God saved me. And our family. And gave me a father’s heart. The older I am the stronger it gets.

4. So let me speak to you today, not as a Teacher, (which are a dime a dozen), but like the Apostle Paul, as a spiritual Father.

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers...

1 Corinthians 4:15 KJV

II. 3 Jobs for Point Men

A. Fathers Must “Take the Point”

1. The first thing a Dad must do is take the lead; he must command respect and authority in his household.

Honor thy father and thy mother...

5th Commandment, quoted by Jesus in Matthew

2. This is not a suggestion; it is a commandment. Creating a culture of honor in the home is “Job #1 for a Dad!

3. Honoring one’s parents does not just happen! It does not come naturally to a child. It must be taught. Actually, it must be commanded.

You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:32 NKJV

- a. The Bible connects the honoring of elders with the fear of the Lord!
- b. If a child is not taught honor for elders and respect for authority in the home, it will not honor or respect it in the classroom, in the church, or on the street!

B. A Father Can Secure Salvation for His Family

1. One of the most powerful principles in the Bible is household salvation; the fact that a father's faith sets the course for his family...

Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household, and they shall keep the way of the Lord.”
Genesis 18:17, 19

2. When God sent the Destroyer through the land of Egypt...

Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.
Exodus 12:3 NKJV

a. The father's faith supplied the lamb that stopped the angel of death at the door and saved the whole family!

3. How about when Joshua confronted the idolatry of Israel with a choice...

But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”
Joshua 24:14

a. Notice the boldness of Joshua...he did not just speak for himself; he spoke for his family!

b. American culture's worship of individualism has contaminated Christianity to the point where men can't be men. The idolatry of "child-worship" emasculates the authority God gives every man to set the course for his children.

c. There was no "family meeting"; there was no "vote"; just a bold man of faith taking the spiritual leadership of his family without compromise.

d. It IS true that every child will eventually have to choose God for itself; but while they are under your roof, father makes the call!

e. Honoring mother and I was commanded; so was service to God!

4. The NT confirms the OT regarding household salvation.

a. **To Zacchaeus**, the short little tax collector who climbed a tree and called out to Him, Jesus said...

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

Luke 19:9

b. **The Philippian jailor...**

9 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Acts 16:29-34 NKJV

c. **The Roman officer Cornelius**

There was a man named Cornelius who lived in Caesarea, captain of the Italian Guard stationed there. He was a thoroughly good man. He had led everyone in his house to live worshipfully before God, was always helping people in need, and had the habit of prayer

Acts 10:1-2 The Message Bible

God sent Peter to his house, where Cornelius says...

33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 10:33, 43

So (1) Fathers take the point in commanding honor; (2) in securing salvation for their families; and thirdly, (3) in providing instruction!

C. A Father Must Provide Instruction

1. God put the 31 chapters of the Book of Proverbs right in the middle of the Bible. The entire book is actually the instruction of a father to his son. The writer is Solomon...

**Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, And ornaments about your neck.
Proverbs 1:8-9**

2. It falls to us as fathers to instruct our sons and daughters in the ways of God. If you don't know where to begin, go through the 915 verses in the Book of Proverbs! That might take a while!

3. Take the point; if you don't teach them, someone else will.

**Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me:" Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.
Proverbs 4:1-4**

4. I can't teach the whole book; but I will whet your appetite with this question. Of all the wisdom Solomon teaches, what is the 1st thing???

**My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.
Proverbs 1:10 NASB**

- a. One of the most important things you can do for your children is to closely monitor their friendships!
- b. Paul said it this way in the New Testament...

**Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good character.
1 Corinthians 15:33 NASB**

5. We live in an increasingly corrupted culture; none of us can live in this world without coming into contact with it. But we don't have to keep company with it!

III. Conclusion

“The institution nearest to the heart of society is the family. The most important office in society is the parental office. If all the families of a nation were to reform, the nation would be reformed.”

Henry Ward Beecher

A. Fathers are God’s “Point Men”

- Seize the lead; command authority; create a culture of honor in your home
- Trust the Lord to save you AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD. It’s biblical
- Accept your role of teaching and instructing in your home; and model what you teach!

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye *followers* of me.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 KJV

- “Followers” is from a Greek word that means “imitate” or “mimic”
- What could be more challenging than to prove we are what we say we are by doing what we say ourselves?
- Fathers lose trust if their actions do not verify their words!
- Larry Tomczak wrote a great Father’s Day article for Charisma magazine; this was his text...

And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

Ezekiel 22:30 NASB

May God never say this of us!