

How Every Father Can Bless His Home

by John Piper

This sermon emphasizes the spiritual dangers facing families today and the need for valiant warriors equipped with biblical discernment and courage. It highlights the importance of husbands praying for their wives and children daily, setting moral standards, and taking initiative in leading and protecting their families. The message also stresses the significance of reconciliation and not letting anger fester, as it can open the door to spiritual attacks within the family.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:26, Colossians 3:19, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 5:25, James 1:19

Description

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Transcript

There are spiritual dangers, brothers, coming at our families from every side today. Innumerable and subtle. We need valiant warriors as never before, but not with spears and shield, but with biblical discernment and courage.

First, husbands, pray for your wife and children every day without fail, over and over again during the day. Noel, Talitha, Carsten, Shelley, Millie, Francis, Abel, Benjamin, Melissa, Oscar, Lillia, Abraham, Molly, Orison, little one, Barnabas, Leslie, Grace, and I used to say, Daddy, and I don't say it anymore unless I slip up. Every day, over and over and over, protect them, protect them, lead them in paths of righteousness.

Don't let them go into temptation. Guard their lives, make their marriages work, make their children strong, protect them. Oh my God, that's your job, to call down from God, hour by hour, blessing on this family.

That's what headship means. Prayer for them. Then, set standards for your wife and children.

Work them through with your wife. Here again, primary responsibility means talk to her about it. She's probably got some better ideas than you, but taking initiative to talk is what she so longs for.

Women are not eager to be dominated. They're eager for their husbands to take initiative to make things happen in the moral sphere of their marriage. Would you please help me set some standards for these kids and then help me carry this through? She shouldn't have to say that.

She wants you to step up. Let's do this together. Take some initiative.

We gotta figure out what this kid's gonna watch on TV. We gotta figure out what movies they're gonna go to. We gotta figure out what music is coming into this house, and we gotta figure out how low that neckline is going.

And that's mainly your job, Dad. Now on that last one, I'm fully aware that it is mainly mom and daughter that work that out from age two months to 22. And what kind of bathing suit you put on this two-year-old will make a difference, in her view of modesty, later.

It will. However, Dad, they desperately need your input on this. They need you to celebrate when they get it right and look beautiful and modest.

And they need you to say, you're not going out of the house with that on, over my dead body. We got fathers that are simply fearful of their daughters at this point. Now guys, you know what I mean when I say, you know what it's saying, and these little girls don't know.

Now you little girls that are here, ask your daddy. Because I promise you, you're wired like a woman. You do not get it.

You might read enough to get it, but guys are wired to get it, see it, feel it. There is a way to dress that is not helpful in the culture. And there's a way to dress that is so helpful.

And Christian women ought not to think, get out of my life, I'll wear what I want. That's not a Christian mentality. A Christian mentality is, how can I bless the world? How can I maximize my life for good in the world? And dads, you're a key here, positively and in terms of warning.

Sometimes it means what they don't think it means. Where are they gonna find out? Their boyfriend? They find out from dad. That's where they find out what this means.

Here's another one. I'm still on spiritual protection. The Bible is very clear about one of the most dangerous intruders spiritually in the family.

Let me read it to you from Ephesians 4, 26. Do not let the sun go down on your anger. Give no opportunity to the devil.

How is the devil allowed into a teenager's bedroom? How is the devil allowed at night into a married couple's bedroom? Answer, when they go to bed, angry. Do you go to bed angry night after night after night? That kid's seething at you in there and no steps at reconciliation have happened? The devil, the door, it's just thrown open wide. And the havoc he can wreak over weeks, months, and years to destroy a soul, a marriage, and a family is awesome.

So what are you gonna do? I'll tell you, dads, this is where headship is so hard no woman would ever want it. This is the hardest thing in the world. Headship means you must initiate reconciliation.

No matter how many times it's been her fault or the kid's fault. You have not the luxury as head to say, she did it and if she doesn't say she's sorry, I'm hitting the pillow. No way.

Justice might say, yes, that's the right way to act. But let me ask you this, is that the way Jesus treated his bride? How many times has he come back to her and back to her? You, you, how many times has he come back to you and back to you and back to you and back to you saying, here I am, ready to make up? A thousand times. 70 times, seven times, seven times, seven, he has come back to you when it's your fault and not his.

And he took the initiative to make it right. He died to make it right. Will we husbands say, it's her turn? Yes, we will, without the Holy Spirit.

This is impossible without Christ. You don't wanna be heads, women, because I'm holding the men accountable that this family not go to bed angry at night. You knock on that teenager's door.

Oh, this can be sweet, brothers. This is as hard as it gets. You knock on that door, and any little increment of fault that you bear over against his many faults, you confess it.

Not many things will break a teenager, but that might. To walk in and say, son, my reaction to what you did was over the top. What you did was wrong, that's not the issue here.

But my reaction to it was over the top. I wanna apologize and say, it wasn't in love. I just got out of control, and I'm sorry, and I'd like you to forgive me.

You talk about sweet sleep. You talk about healing balms in the mind and the soul, dads. Now, I'm not naive, good night.

I've been married 38 years. There are attempts at peace that don't work, all right? But you gotta try. You get down on your knees, Noelle and I have knelt beside each other, and we haven't hardly been able to pray.

We just kneel there in silence. Who's gonna pray first? Neither of us feel like praying. We're so upset, and these hinder your prayers big time.

And you can just eke out, God help us. I want it to be better. It's your job, dad.

You know, hardest thing in the world. Keep the devil out of the bedroom and out of the kids' rooms by not letting the sun go down on your anger in as much as it lies within you.

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