

## **The Virtuous Man - The World's Best Husband and Father**

### **1 Timothy 3: 1 to 13**

**Under the Old Covenant, God instituted many social events to help His People stay focused, and not drift away. There were the three major feasts; the new moon feasts; the seventh day of rest; the seventh year of rest; and the Jubilee.**

**But do you notice that Our Lord Jesus did not carry them over to the New Covenant. We have only 2 sacraments now; baptism and communion. And while all cultures have their celebrations; Christians have to be careful. As we grow in our new life in Christ; the devil is always trying to pull us back into our culture; which is controlled by his demons. We have to put Jesus Christ first; and ahead of our culture.**

**Matthew 10: 37 - He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**

**Now Our Lord is not telling us to hate our parents.**

**In fact He re-iterated the Fifth Commandment.**

**Matthew 19: 17 to 19 - And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is , God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

**Besides being respectful; what else can you do for family? As everyone is an individual and has a personality; there are special days in the year, that other family members can observe. Birthdays and anniversaries are important to remember.**

**Mother's Day and Father's Day are opportunities for children to show their**

**love and respect and thanks to their parents for their nurture and prayers.**

**And as to-day is Father's Day; why don't we look at the role of fathers? This is important; because if people have the wrong impressions of human fathers; it will hinder or block their relationship with Our Heavenly Father.**

**As a result of the fall in the Garden of Eden; mankind's close relationship with God was broken. Man now feared God; that He would punish them for the smallest sin.**

**When Our Lord Jesus Christ came down to earth, He revealed what God was really like.**

**John 14: 4 to 11 - And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then , Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

**Now the world has many examples for men and boys to imitate. There's the macho type like Rambo at one end of the spectrum. At the other, is the girly man. Where are the Godly men, whom the younger men and boys can follow? And the world has a lot of advice; but most of it is useless and detrimental to godly families.**

**While the Bible is full of good counsel for fathers; there is one passage that outlines the characteristics of a Godly father.**

**1 Timothy 3: 1 to 13 - This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the**

**husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**Now, I know that this is the list for pastors. But let us use it as an example to work towards; because fathers are the priest of their families. Needless to say; Our Lord Jesus Christ is the best example. And He has left us with the command structure; so that the family unit will function the best.**

**Ephesians 5: 21 to 6: 4 - Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a**

**man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**

**So let us now look at what we should aim at, in order to be the best husbands and fathers possible.**

**1 Timothy 3: 2 to 7 - A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, 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?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**

**And thankfully with the Full Gospel of Salvation, Healing and Deliverance, we can get the help we need to be better husbands and fathers.**

**Pastor T. John Franklin**

**Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance**

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