

## **Man Up**

Nathan Futrell - April 1-2, 2017

***God is calling men to a radically different way of raising their children than we may typically think. It's time to man up.***

***Society's standards are often misaligned with God's***

- ***The Enemy warps Godly desires into ungodly means of achieving them***
- o ***Desire for Intimacy – premarital or extramarital relationships***
- o ***Desire for Success – workaholism or materialism***
- o ***Desire for Rest/Peace – laziness, distractions, addictions***
- ***This distorting effect extends to our understanding of manhood and womanhood***

***While breadwinning is a Biblical endeavor, even providing for the family can become an unbalanced pursuit***

***God places every man in a special mission field... his own home***

***Luke 1:17 – "... and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."***

***Research shows that father's who parent in a warm, involved manner produce numerous benefits for their children.***

- ***As infants, higher cognitive functioning, higher IQ at age 3***
- ***More prone to explore the environment with curiosity***
- ***Expanded vocabulary, more complex utterances***
- ***In school, higher academic achievement***
- ***Better peer relations, more well-liked***
- ***Less prone to engage in delinquent behavior or use drugs/alcohol***
- ***Stronger internal morals***

***[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael\\_Lamb/publication/31670039\\_The\\_Role\\_of\\_the\\_Father\\_in\\_Child\\_Development\\_M\\_R\\_Lamb/links/00b4952399d43485f1000000/The-Role-of-the-Father-in-Child-Development-M-R-Lamb.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael_Lamb/publication/31670039_The_Role_of_the_Father_in_Child_Development_M_R_Lamb/links/00b4952399d43485f1000000/The-Role-of-the-Father-in-Child-Development-M-R-Lamb.pdf)***

***[http://www.fira.ca/cms/documents/29/Effects\\_of\\_Father\\_Involvement.pdf](http://www.fira.ca/cms/documents/29/Effects_of_Father_Involvement.pdf)***

**What NOT to do:**

**Ephesians 6:4 – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”**

**Colossian 3:21 – “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”**

- **Parenting is a training ground for cultivating courage and resilience**
- **We provoke our children to anger or discouragement through**
  - o **Abuse (verbal, physical, emotional, sexual)**
  - o **Withholding affection as punishment**
  - o **Over-discipline – lecturing or overly-harsh consequences**
  - o **Under-discipline – leads to entitlement**

**What TO do:**

**Teach them the Word of God**

• **Deuteronomy 11:18-21 – “18 “So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 19 Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.”**

**Demonstrate Following Jesus**

• **John 5:19 (NLT) – “So Jesus explained, ‘I tell you the truth, the son can do nothing by himself. He only does what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.’”**

**Tune in Emotionally**

• **Psalms 56:8 (NLT) – “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”**

• **Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT) – “For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”**