

Sermon Title: Family Man

Date: 9/25/ 2022

When we talk of the critical role men have in families, the example set by Nehemiah is a great place to start. Nehemiah was an Israelite official serving in Persia and he was called back to his homeland to lead the people of God in rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem. While the Jews were working on the walls, they faced some opposition. **Nehemiah 4:14-20**

Big idea: Men, actively fight for your family

In order to fight effectively, there are four actions that are our responsibility.

PROTECT

The men of Israel were on guard to protect their families while they were building the wall. They did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other. The godly husband and father is responsible for the physical security of his family, even at his own cost. **1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Ephesians 5:25**

If necessary the godly man is called to lay down his life for his family. You put yourself between the threat and your family. Protecting your family goes beyond physically protecting them. You must also be proactive, protecting your family from the predators who try to invade your family's mind through the internet, television, and video games. They will see images and topics that are designed to shape their minds in an unhealthy way and lead to lifelong addictions and desires.

Protecting also includes fighting for your family's mental health and well being. You may need to go for individual counseling or take your family member for counseling or evaluation. There is nothing wrong with getting a different set of eyes on your situation. **Proverbs 19:20, Proverbs 1:5**

PROVIDE

1 Timothy 5:8

The broad principle in scripture is that the husband is called to be the provider and in many cases, this means that you, the husband, will be the family's reliable breadwinner. It's important to know that in the context of this verse, income is not linked to the head of the household, and it isn't attached to a certain level of income. Provide here means to be observant

and take responsibility to make sure the needs of the family are met now and in the future.

The Bible also includes under this umbrella of "providing" for your family the way that you provide for the mental, emotional, and behavioral stability of your family. **1 Timothy 3:4**

SHEPHERD HIS FAMILY

Scripture also says that men are the spiritual leaders of their home. **(1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 6:4)** The spiritual health of the family falls on the shoulders of men. The best way to do that is through modeling what a relationship with Jesus looks like in your own home.

Shepherd your wife's heart - know what is going on in her life – her cares, concerns, and victories. Know what drains her energy and what re-energizes her. Lead her to God's Word to encourage her and pray with her. If your family includes raising children, be intentional about raising your children to love Jesus. They may rebel for a time but trust that the training in righteousness you give them will bring them back to Jesus. **Proverbs 22:6**

PLAY

Actively fighting for your family means making them want to stay in a close relationship with you and one another. One primary way to do that is to have fun together. Life and family are not just about being serious all the time. Did you know the bible backs that up? **Ecclesiastes 8:15 NLT**
1 Timothy 6:17 says that God gives us everything for our enjoyment.

A key ingredient for your family's health and happiness is making time to have fun together - Yet that is the very thing that is missing from so many families today. Families are too busy, tired, serious, or negative to have fun. Make life fun. Dads, here is a truthful statement - life happens on the floor. Notice, that's where your younger kids play – and that's where they want you to join them. It's playing action figures or dolls, Legos, or setting up a stuffed animal parade. Life happens on the floor.

Families who are deliberate about having fun feel closer, are more satisfied, and are more mentally healthy.
Ecclesiastes 9:9 says Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love

Men, the greatest gift you can give your kids is to love your wife. You are the first and greatest model of a relationship for them.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Should the man's role in the family be shaped by the Bible or by society?**
- **How does society's view of men differ from the Bible? How is it the same?**
- **Describe a man in your life who is truly a godly man. What traits does he exhibit?**
- **How much priority should a man place on having fun with his family? Give some examples.**