

WHAT EVERY CHILD NEEDS



Ephesians 6:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

ALLOW ME TO PREFACE THIS MESSAGE AS I HAVE SO MANY OTHERS PREVIOUSLY, BY ANNOUNCING THE SIMPLE TRUTH THAT THE FAMILY IS GOD'S IDEA.

IT IS GOD WHO ORDAINED IT, AND MOST CERTAINLY IT IS GOD WHO MAINTAINS IT.

AND THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF ANY FAMILY IS BY EVERYONE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO THE WORD AND THE WILL OF GOD...

WHAT WE'VE SEEN IN RECENT YEARS IN OUR CULTURE, IS THE ABANDONMENT OF ALL THAT IS SACRED WITHIN OUR FAMILIES.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE WHOLE NOTION OF FAMILY HAS BEEN REDEFINED IN ORDER TO APPEASE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO'VE DECIDED TO DO THEIR OWN THING.

THAT CONVENTIONAL AND TRADITIONAL MODEL OF FATHER, MOTHER AND CHILDREN.

ALTHOUGH WE WOULD LIKE TO LABEL IT THAT WAY, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE MODEL ISN'T TRADITIONAL, IT'S BIBLICAL...

EVEN THE MEANS THROUGH WHICH WE BECOME A FAMILY HAVE NOW BEEN REDEFINED ACCORDING TO A WORLDLY WAY OF LIVING, REMEMBER WHEN IT USED TO BE HUSBAND, WIFE, THEN CHILDREN?

WELL NOWADAYS IT'S MAN, WOMAN, CHILDREN, AND PRAYERFULLY MARRIAGE...

THE ORDER OF THINGS USE TO BE: DATE, MARRY, MATE, BUILD A HOUSE, HAVE CHILDREN, AND ETC.

BUT NOWADAYS, WE'VE TURNED IT INTO DATE, MATE, SHACK UP, HAVE CHILDREN, AND AGAIN PRAYERFULLY, GET MARRIED...

A WOMAN USED TO HOPE FOR A HUSBAND, A HOUSE, AND A CHILD. BUT INSTEAD SHE GOT AN APARTMENT, A CHILD, AND A MAN WHO STILL ACTS LIKE A CHILD...

ALL I'M TRYING TO GET YOU TO SEE IS THAT THE MODEL FOR FAMILY IS UNDER ATTACK. AND WHAT EVERY CHILD NEEDS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IS SOME PARENTS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING THE LORD...

IN THIS LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS, PAUL PROVIDES US WITH AN OUTLINE OF WHAT GOD EXPECTS FROM THE FAMILY.

BUT ACCORDING TO THE LESSON FROM CHAPTER NUMBER 5, THE FAMILY DOESN'T BEGIN WITH PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

THE FAMILY IS MADE STABLE BY THE MINISTRY OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

AGAIN NOW, NOT BABY MOMMA, BABY DADDY. THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE IS CLEAR WHEN IT SAYS HUSBANDS AND WIVES...

VERSE 22 SAYS, " WIVES, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS, AS UNTO THE LORD. 23FOR 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. 24THEREFORE AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT UNTO CHRIST, SO LET THE WIVES BE TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS IN EVERY THING."

25HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, EVEN AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT; 26THAT HE

MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE IT WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD, 27THAT 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.

28SO OUGHT MEN TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEIR OWN BODIES. HE THAT LOVETH HIS WIFE LOVETH HIMSELF. 29FOR NO MAN EVER YET HATED HIS OWN FLESH; BUT NOURISHETH AND CHERISHETH IT, EVEN AS THE LORD THE CHURCH: 30FOR WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY, OF HIS FLESH, AND OF HIS BONES. 31FOR THIS CAUSE SHALL A MAN LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL BE JOINED UNTO HIS WIFE, AND THEY TWO SHALL BE ONE FLESH.

32THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY: BUT I SPEAK CONCERNING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH. 33NEVERTHELESS LET EVERY ONE OF YOU IN PARTICULAR SO LOVE HIS WIFE EVEN AS HIMSELF; AND THE WIFE SEE THAT SHE REVERENCE HER HUSBAND.

THE FIRST POINT I WANNA MAKE FROM THIS IS THAT, EVERY MAN SHOULD SEEK TO BECOME A HUSBAND...

EVEN IF YOU'RE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED, OR YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO DATE FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. AT SOME POINT IN YOUR NATURAL LIFE, IT SHOULD BE EVERY MAN'S DESIRE TO FIND HIMSELF A WIFE...

I KNOW THIS IS OLD FASHIONED. BUT IT HAS TO BE SAID. BECAUSE IF A MAN DOESN'T WANT TO BE A HUSBAND, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

YOU SEE, THE REASON WHY MANY MEN SHY AWAY FROM GETTING MARRIED, IS BECAUSE, AS SOON AS WE TAKE THE TITLE, THERE'S A TASK TO GO ALONG WITH IT.

NOW, WE HAVE TO LOVE THEM LIKE CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH. AND THE WAY HE LOVED THE CHURCH IS BY GIVING AND SACRIFICING FOR IT...

YES, WE LOVE THE TITLE, AND WE LOVE TO SAY, “I’M THE MAN OF THE HOUSE. I’M HUSBAND, I’M DADDY, YOU ALL ARE UNDER ME.”

BUT THE REALITY AS IT PERTAINS TO YOUR POSITION, YOU ARE TO BE THE CHIEF SERVANT IN THE HOUSE.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF NOBODY ELSE WORK, THE MAN NEEDS TO WORK.

- **IF THE CHILDREN DON’T HAVE A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD;**
- **IF THAT CHILD DOESN’T EAT;**
- **IF THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF;**
- **IF THERE ARE NO GRITS AND GROCERY IN THAT REFRIGERATOR, IT’S ALL ON YOU.**
- **ALL THAT GOES WITH THE TERRITORY...**

THAT’S WHY YOU WOMEN SHOULDN’T LET THESE MEN LAY UP IN YOUR HOUSE, WITH NO TASK AND NO TITLE.

YOU SHOULDN’T CARRY ON THESE RELATIONSHIPS THAT HAVE NO DEFINITION AND NO CLEAR DISTINCTION.

YOU NEED TO ASK HIM AND YOURSELF:

1. **IS THIS A RELATIONSHIP THAT’S HEADED SOMEWHERE?**
2. **ARE WE EVENTUALLY GOING TO GET MARRIED?**
3. **WHERE ARE WE GOING?**
4. **WHAT ARE WE DOING?**
5. **BECAUSE IF YOU CAN’T SEE YOURSELF SPENDING 90 YEARS IN HIS PRESENCE, THEN THE IDEA OF 90 DAYS IS A WASTE OF YOUR TIME!...**

IF HE HAS NO DESIRE TO BE A HUSBAND, THE IDEA OF BEING A FATHER WON'T EXCITE HIM EITHER.

BUT UNLESS HE HAS TAKEN A VOW OF CELIBACY, HE STANDS A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF BECOMING A FATHER...

IT'S REALLY NOT ROCKET SCIENCE GENTLEMEN, WHICH IS WHY I MARVEL AT HOW CONFUSED SOME PEOPLE ACT IN OUR COMMUNITY. "I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS COULD HAVE HAPPENED"... REALLY???

I KNOW THERE ARE VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN OUR FAMILIES. BUT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION COMING BEHIND US, WE NEED TO EVALUATE WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING, AND GET BACK TO THE ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT: HUSBAND, WIFE... AND THEN, CHILDREN...

CHAPTER 6 SAYS, "*CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS, IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT.*"

WHAT EVERY CHILD NEEDS AS I SAID BEFORE, ARE PARENTS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING THE LORD.

WHEN YOU LISTEN TO THE LANGUAGE IN BOTH CHAPTERS, WHAT YOU ARE HEARING IS A SUPPOSITION OF GODLY SUBMISSION.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT SUPPOSES THAT HUSBANDS HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE LORD. THAT'S WHY WIVES CAN SUBMIT TO YOU.

AND THEN, IT *FURTHER* PRE-SUPPOSES, THAT THE *PARENTS* ARE OBEDIENT TO GOD. THAT'S WHY IT IS RIGHT FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO SUBMIT AND BE OBEDIENT TO YOU...

YOU SEE, THERE ARE TWO ISSUES THAT ARE RAISED HERE, AND THEN I'LL BID YOU ALL A GOOD MORNING.

(I). THE FIRST ISSUE IS, THAT A CHILD WHO DOESN'T HAVE

A REFERENCE FOR HIS FATHER, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN EVER HAVE REVERENCE FOR HIS FATHER. HEAR ME NOW... (REPEAT)

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING PASTOR SIMMONS? I'M SAYING THAT A LOT OF OUR CHILDREN TODAY DON'T RESPECT THEIR FATHERS, BECAUSE OF A LOT OF THEIR FATHERS ARE ABSENT FROM THEIR LIFE.

AGAIN, HOW CAN THEY "REVERENCE" YOU, IF THEY CAN'T "REFERENCE" YOU?..

I MEAN, WHY DO YOU THINK THESE BOYS ARE HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME IN OUR COMMUNITY?

I DON'T CARE HOW MANY PROGRAMS, OR INITIATIVES YOU CONJURE UP IN SOMEBODY'S BOARDROOM. IF THEY DON'T HAVE AN EXAMPLE THEY CAN LOOK AT EVERY DAY, YOU CAN'T EXPECT THEM TO FOLLOW WHAT HAS NEVER BEEN MODELED...

LOOK AT WHAT WE DO: WE CRITICIZE THESE BOYS. WE RIDICULE THEM FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR, THEIR LOOKS, THEIR ATTITUDE, AND THEIR CONDUCT.

BUT WHAT ELSE DO THEY HAVE TO GRAVITATE TO?

THE DOPE MAN ON THE STREET AND THE FOOL IN THE RAP VIDEO, HAVE CARS, HOUSES, WOMEN, AND RESPECT FROM HIS PEERS.

SO UNLESS YOU REPLACE THAT IMAGE WITH SOMETHING MORE POSITIVE, YOU CAN'T EXPECT HIM TO "REVERENCE" A GODLY MAN, IF HE CAN'T "REFERENCE" A GODLY MAN...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY CHILDREN DURING THEIR CHILDHOOD, PROGRAMS LIKE THE COSBY SHOW WASN'T A BIG DEAL FOR THEM TO SEE HOW THEY LIVED, BECAUSE THEIR EXPERIENCE WASN'T THAT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THERE'S.

HEAR ME NOW. I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR EXPOSURE AND YOUR FRAME OF REFERENCE.

IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL TO SEE A BLACK MAN MARRIED TO A BLACK WOMAN. MY KIDS ALREADY HAD A REFERENCE FOR THAT.

- **MY KIDS ALREADY HAD A REFERENCE OF TWO PEOPLE WHO WENT TO COLLEGE AND PUSH THEIR KIDS TO GO TO COLLEGE;**
- **MY KIDS ALREADY HAD A REFERENCE OF PARENTS WHO HAD GOOD JOBS;**
- **MY KIDS ALREADY HAD A REFERENCE OF TWO PARENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE CHILDREN;**
- **MY KIDS ALREADY HAD A REFERENCE OF TWO PARENTS SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS IN A SENSIBLE MANNER**
- **WE HAD ALREADY GIVEN OUR CHILDREN A REFERENCE FOR THAT!**

SO, WHEN YOU TALK TO SOME OF OUR KIDS TODAY, THE REASON WHY THEY CAN'T EMBRACE THE POSSIBILITY OF A COSBY TYPE FAMILY, IS BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN EXPOSED TO THAT IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY...

SOME OF THE THINGS WE ACCEPT AS NORMAL THESE DAYS, IT WASN'T TOO LONG AGO THAT THIS STUFF WOULD BE CONSIDERED DYSFUNCTIONAL.

1. **DIFFERENT MEN IN AND OUT OF YOUR LIFE, THAT'S DYSFUNCTIONAL.**
2. **PEOPLE CURSING EACH OTHER OUT AND BEATING EACH OTHER DOWN. THAT'S DYSFUNCTIONAL.**
3. **PARENTS DOING DRUGS AND HAVING WILD PARTIES AT ALL TIMES OF THE NIGHT, THAT'S DYSFUNCTIONAL;**

4. YES, GRANDMOMMA 'NEM USED TO DIP SNUFF. BUT THEY NEVER LET KIDS SEE THEM DOING CERTAIN THINGS...

ALL I'M TRYING TO GET YOU TO SEE, IS THAT CHILDREN CAN'T "REVERENCE" WHAT THEY CAN'T "REFERENCE."

FATHERS, UNLESS WE MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO CHANGE OUR BEHAVIORS, OUR CHILDREN CAN'T FOLLOW WHAT WE DON'T MODEL...

THAT'S WHY HE SAYS, "*FATHERS, PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH.*"

IN OTHER WORDS, DON'T LET YOUR PRESENCE, OR YOUR ABSENCE, BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THEM COMING TO KNOW JESUS...

WHEN YOU LEAVE MOMMA HANGING, THAT CHILD IS GOING TO REMEMBER THAT.

WHY, BECAUSE EVERY YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME, SHE'S GOING TO TELL ANYBODY WHO WILL LISTEN ABOUT WHAT A BUZZARD YOU ARE:

1. HE DOESN'T CALL.
2. HE DOESN'T HELP OUT.
3. HE DOESN'T PICK HIS CHILD UP.
4. HE WON'T HELP BUY NO SCHOOL CLOTHES.

BROTHER, EVEN IF YOU AND YOUR BABY'S MAMA DON'T WORK OUT, IT IS STILL YOUR JOB TO PROVIDE AND BE THERE FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

NO WONDER THESE BOYS GET HARD WHEN A MAN TRIES TO TELL THEM SOMETHING.

I MEAN, HE BEEN THE MAN OF HIS HOUSE ALL HIS LIFE, AND HE'S ONLY 15 YEARS OLD.

AND HERE YOU COME TALKING ABOUT PULL YOUR PANTS UP. AND CUT THAT STUFF OFF YOUR HEAD.

BUT THE REASON WHY THEY GOT SO MUCH WRATH IN THEIR EYES TOWARDS AUTHORITY, IS BECAUSE WHEN THEY REALLY NEEDED SOME DISCIPLINE, THEIR FATHER WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...

REMEMBER NOW, CHILDREN ARE AN ASSIGNMENT. AND IT IS OUR JOB TO SPEAK GOD'S WORDS TO THEM, UNTIL THEY CAN HEAR GOD'S VOICE FOR THEMSELVES...

THAT'S WHY HE SAYS WE GOT TO RAISE THEM UP, IN THE NURTURING AND IN THE ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

CAN I BE HONEST WITH YOU ALL THIS MORNING? I GOT SAVED WHEN I WAS 8 YEARS OLD. BUT I HAVE NOT ALWAYS FEARED THE LORD... HEAR ME NOW. I DIDN'T ALWAYS FEAR GOD. BUT I ALWAYS FEARED MY FATHER...

UNDERSTAND THAT I EVENTUALLY GREW TO RESPECT MY FATHER. BUT FROM THE MOMENT I LEFT MY MOTHER'S WOMB, I WAS IMMEDIATELY TAUGHT TO FEAR THAT MAN.

- 1. HE WAS OLDER THAN ME,**
- 2. HE WAS BIGGER THAN ME.**
- 3. AND HE MADE IT VERY CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING, THAT HE WOULD TEAR MY BEHIND UP.**
- 4. HE TOLD ME, "I BROUGHT YOU IN THIS WORLD, AND I WILL TAKE YOU OUT."**

LISTEN, IF THEY DON'T FEAR YOU, THEY'LL NEVER LEARN TO FEAR GOD.

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEYING HIM, ARE FAR WORSE THAN DADDY'S BELT OR MOMMA'S EXTENSION CORD...

IF YOU WANT THEM TO RESPECT *GOD'S* RULES, THEY FIRST HAVE TO LEARN TO RESPECT *YOUR* RULES...

ALL OF THIS, "DO WHAT YOU WANNA, AND COME BACK WHEN YOU GET READY," UNDERSTAND IF THEY TAKE THAT MENTALITY INTO ADULthood, THEY GONE BE EATING YOUR FRUIT LOOPS AND DRINKING YOUR COOLAID FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES...

I'M TELLING YOU NOW, WHAT EVERY CHILD NEEDS IS A PARENT WHO AINT SCARED OF THEM, AND SOME GROWN PEOPLE WHO AINT INTERESTED IN BEING THEIR FRIEND.

SHUCKS, YOU GOT A FRIEND IN JESUS. BUT I'M YOUR DADDY. AND THE WAY YOU ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL IN LIFE, IS TO BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURING AND THE ADMONITION OF THE LORD...

PAUL SAYS, "BRING THEM UP." AND TO ME THAT SUGGESTS A MANDATE INSTEAD OF A MOTION.

HE DIDN'T SAY ASK THEM UP, OR REQUEST THEM UP. THE BIBLE SAYS BRING THEM UP, WHICH MEANS THEY DON'T HAVE THE OPTION TO STAY DOWN...

MY MAMA AND DADDY DIDN'T ASK ME TO CHURCH, THEY BROUGHT ME TO CHURCH.

- **THEY DIDN'T ASK ME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, THEY BROUGHT ME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL;**
- **THEY DIDN'T ASK ME IF I WANTED TO SING IN THE CHOIR, THEY TOLD ME I WAS SINGING IN THE CHOIR;**
- **THEY DIDN'T ASK ME IF I WANTED TO READ THE BIBLE, THEY BROUGHT THE BIBLE FOR ME, AND MADE ME MEMORIZE A SCRIPTURE...**

LISTEN FATHERS, THIS THING ISN'T VOLUNTARY. THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU HAVE TO BRING YOUR CHILD INTO, WHETHER THEY WANT TO GO OR NOT.

- **IF YOU WANT THEM TO MOVE TO HIGHER STANDARDS, YOU'VE GOT TO BRING THEM UP TO IT;**
- **IF YOU WANT THEM TO HAVE A GOOD EDUCATION, YOU HAVE GOT TO BRING THEM UP TO IT;**
- **IF YOU WANT THEM TO HAVE GOOD MORALS, YOU HAVE GOT TO BRING THEM UP TO THEM;**
- **IF YOU WANT THEM TO HAVE RESPECT, YOU HAVE GOT TO BRING THEM UP TO IT;**
- **IF YOU WANT THEM TO HAVE REVERENCE FOR GOD, YOU HAVE GOT TO BRING THEM UP TO IT;**

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM A GOOD EXAMPLE SO THEY CAN FOLLOW WHAT YOU MODEL...

CONCLUSION

NOW I REALIZE AS I PREPARE TO CLOSE, THAT THERE ARE MANY SITUATIONS THAT ARE PRESENT IN OUR CHURCH.

- 1. WE HAVE CHILDREN BEING RAISED BY SINGLE MOTHERS, SINGLE FATHERS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTIES, AND EVEN SISTERS AND BROTHERS.**
- 2. AND THIS THING DIDN'T JUST START WITH MY GENERATION.**
- 3. SOME OF YOU GOT COUSINS WHO LIVED WITH YOU GROWING UP, AND YOU ALL WERE RAISED LIKE BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**
- 4. YES, SOME OF YOU ARE OLDER THAN YOUR AUNTIES AND YOUR UNCLES, BECAUSE MOMMA AND GRANDOMMA WERE PREGNANT AT THE SAME TIME...**
- 5. OTHERS OF US GOT SIBLINGS IN NEW JERSEY, AND SOME MORE SIBLINGS IN GEORGIA AND NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINIA;**

6. BUT REGARDLESS OF HOW BROKEN OR HOW DYSFUNCTIONAL YOUR FAMILY IS, WHEN IT COMES TO MOTHER AND FATHER, YOU HAVE TO HONOR THE POSITION, EVEN IN SPITE OF THE PERSON...
7. YEA, HE LEFT, BUT YOU NEED TO HONOR HIM. BECAUSE HONORING YOUR PARENTS IS LIKE HONORING THE LORD.
8. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT YOUR PARENTS, JUST LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT GOD.
9. SO, AT SOME POINT, IN SPITE OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, WE HAVE TO HEAL FROM THE PAST SO WE CAN FUNCTION IN THE FUTURE...
10. WE'VE GOT TO HEAL FROM OUR BAD MEMORIES.
11. HEAL FROM OUR BAD EXPERIENCES.
12. HEAL FROM WHAT THEY COULD'VE DONE AND SHOULD'VE DONE BETTER.
13. BECAUSE HONORING YOUR PARENTS IS NOT A SUGGESTION, IT'S A COMMANDMENT...

LISTEN, IF ALL THEY DID WAS GET YOU HERE, TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

1. IF THEY DROPPED THE BALL AFTER THAT, OR LEFT YOU A BAD EXAMPLE, YOU STILL GOT A REASON TO THANK GOD, BECAUSE HE NEVER LEFT YOU WITHOUT HOPE.
2. THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA HONOR THE MEN IN OUR COMMUNITY.
3. WE MAY NOT BE ALL WE OUGHTA BE. BUT THANK GOD WE'RE TRYING TO GET BETTER EVERY DAY.

YEA, ALL OF US ARE NOT DEADBEATS...

- ALL OF US ARE NOT IN JAIL;
- ALL OF US ARE NOT RUNNING FROM RESPONSIBILITY;
- ALL OF US ARE NOT STICKING AND MOVING;
- ALL OF US ARE NOT DROPPING SEEDS EVERYWHERE;
- LEAVING THESE WOMEN BEHIND

WE ARE LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY...

- WE ARE THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL;
- WE SHOW UP TO CHURCH;
- WE WORK IN OUR CHURCH;
- WE LEAD BY EXAMPLE;
- WE KNOW HOW TO WORK FOR A LIVING;

**AND FOR ANY CHILD THAT'S LOOKING FOR A ROLE MODEL,
I SAY LOOK AROUND THIS SANCTUARY, AND PICK ONE!...**

***YEA, IF YOU WANNA SEE A GODLY MAN, LOOK AROUND.**

- IF YOU WANT TO SEE A WORKING MAN, LOOK AROUND;
- IF YOU WANT TO SEE A PRAYING MAN, LOOK AROUND;
- IF YOU WANT TO SEE A SAVED MAN, LOOK AROUND.

**BECAUSE I MAY NOT BE ALL I OUGHTA BE. BUT I THANK
THE LORD, I'M NOT WHAT I WAS.**

1. I THANK GOD, FOR PERRY SIMMONS, SR. BECAUSE PERRY SIMMONS, SR, IS MY DADDY.
2. BUT THE BEST THING MY DADDY DID FOR ME, WAS TO INTRODUCE ME, TO MY HEAVENLY FATHER.

3. I'VE GOT A FATHER UP IN HEAVEN, WHO SCOOPED OUT THE VALLEYS, AND PILED UP THE MOUNTAINS.
4. I'VE GOT A FATHER UP IN HEAVEN, WHO HOLDS MY HAND AND GUIDES MY FEET;
5. I'VE GOT A FATHER IN HEAVEN, WHO HEARS MY PRAYERS.
6. AND THE BEST THING, MY FATHER DID FOR ME, WAS INTRODUCE ME, TO MY ELDER BROTHER.

I'M TALKING ABOUT JESUS:

- MY REDEEMER;
- MY SAVIOR;
- MY ELDER BROTHER;

THE PUNISHMENT THAT WAS MEANT FOR ME, HE WENT TO THE FATHER ON MY BEHALF.

“HE WAS WOUNDED FOR MY TRANSGRESSION, HE WAS BRUISED FOR MY INIQUITY; THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.”

EARLY ONE FRIDAY MORNING, THEY LED HIM UP CALVARY'S HILL;

THEY STRETCHED HIM WIDE, AND THEY HUNG HIM HIGH; HE DIED FOR OUR SINS;

THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB; HE STAYED THERE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS;

BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.