

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Why Fathers Are So Important to Daughters

I was very grateful when God gave us a daughter about eleven years ago. I took great care in selecting a virtuous woman to marry two years earlier. When we received our baby girl, I felt her mother would teach her to be just like her. I could sit back and watch the prize which is far above rubies develop (Prov. 31:10). Although my wife appreciated the compliment, she reminded me that child rearing was not a spectator sport for either parent.

The Bible doesn't speak a great deal about the specific relationship between fathers and daughters.

We know Jairus (Mark 5:21ff), Philip (Acts 21:9), and Jephthah (Judges 11) all had girls, but the father I would like to consider is daughters to be the 2 Peter 2:5-9 and Luke 17:26-29 couple Noah and Lot together. Both men lived in an environment of great wickedness. Both men remained pure in spite of their surroundings. Both men were rescued by God when their neighbors were destroyed.

There were also some serious direction to find their differences between the two men. Noah had sons while Lot had daughters. Noah had to live in a wicked world, while Lot chose to live in a wicked city (Gen. 13:7-13). The most significant difference for our study though is that Noah saved his family while Lot lost his.

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere ..." (Gen. 13:10). Lot made his selection based on profit. Many men make their choices based on money. They will accept a transfer, a promotion, or overtime without considering how it will impact their family. Fathers are to provide for their families (1 Tim. 5:8), but these provisions go much deeper than the wallet. I must give my girls spiritual instruction, a refuge from the wicked world, and an opportunity to meet Christian boys from whom to choose their husbands.

In time God decided to destroy Sodom and its neighbors. Angels were sent to deliver Lot's family, but before they retired for the evening the men of the city came to Lot's door demanding the visitors for sex (Gen. 19:4-8). Lot offered these men his two virgin daughters to satisfy their lusts. (I hope at this point Lot realized what a poor choice he had made for his family.) The angels struck the Sodomites with blindness to rescue Lot and his daughters.

Before the city was destroyed Lot tried to persuade his sons-in-law to leave with him (Gen. 19:14). Some have suggested that Lot had two daughters. They believe that these virgins who were offered to the mob were also betrothed to the men who are called sons-in-law. Others believe Lot had at least four daughters. Two or more had already married men of the city. If this was the case then the husbands had authority over their wives. Lot could not rescue his daughters without convincing their husbands to depart. The men weren't persuaded, and Lot had to leave his children to die.

Our culture allows children to pick their own mates, but we can do a great deal to influence their decision. From the time our girls were old enough to know what marriage was their mother and I have spoken to them about finding a husband who loves God like they do. We want them to marry a true Christian and not just a church member.

The story ends with Lot and his daughters living in the mountains. His wife was dead. The daughters feared their father would have no heirs, and so they got him drunk and committed incest with him. They were out of Sodom, but Sodom was not out of them. Lot escaped the city, but his family died or was contaminated by its evil.

As fathers we often think we should protect our daughters from boys, but we must also learn to protect boys from our daughters. The immoral woman found in Proverbs 5-7 was someone's daughter. Some father's little girl grew up to be a seductress.

The wickedness which led to the flood began when the sons of God (spiritually minded men) looked upon the daughters of men (immoral women). The women were valued for their fleshly beauty only. Their influence led to the contamination of all except for Noah's family. We don't want our daughters to be the daughters of men, but children of God. We brought them into this world. Let's give them the love and direction to find their way into God's family.

- Ron Roberts, via *Guardian of Truth*, July 17, 1997

THREE DIVINE MAGNETS

As a child I played with magnets and was always amazed at their "drawing power." As an adult I am still amazed at their power, even though I understand the "why" now. But have you ever thought of some things in the Bible that speak of "divine drawing power?" Consider these 3:

(1) God Draws Men. Jesus said in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." We need to know just how God draws men. Continue on to verse 45, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." Herein we learn men are drawn to God as they are taught; they hear, learn and come.

(2) Jesus Draws Through The Cross. Jesus said in John 3:14, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." Jesus was lifted up from the earth as he was crucified on the cross. Again, Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." The sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross is like a Divine Magnet to draw men to follow Him and become Christians. It is "by the cross" that men are reconciled "unto God in one body" (Ephesians 2:16).

(3) The Gospel Of Christ Is The Drawing Power. Paul told the Romans in 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." The only true drawing power that God uses in saving men is the spiritual magnet, the Divine Power of the gospel. And truly the same gospel keeps and teaches men to be faithful in living our lives.

Special Note: Always remember: Any of these three divine magnets do not draw against the will of man, but as man's will becomes submissive to God's will the work is completed. The draw is there: but man must let himself be "drawn further" into the blessings of the divine magnets.

- Wendell M. Powell, via *The Charlotte Lamp*, 09/23/2012 [slightly edited – GFS]

Instruction is Important!

The writer of the gospel account, Luke, addressed his carefully investigated and well-ordered narrative concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to one named Theophilus "so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:4). Just as it was vitally important for this person to know the certainty of his instruction in matters relative to the faith of Jesus Christ, it is necessary that we gain accurate knowledge about it.

We may or may not gain such from men, and sadly, through the many years since the apostles of Christ died, men have not fulfilled the trust required by the Lord for conveying the saving gospel accurately. Even in the Apostle Paul's day, many were perverting the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-10). It is required of Christians that we know the truth (John 8:31-32), which would summon courage to lay aside the creeds, fables, opinions, and doctrines originating with men. Only by receiving what was "God-breathed," (2 Timothy 3:16, "inspired by God") and recorded by His faithful "ambassadors" (2 Corinthians 5:20; cf. 2 Peter 1:21) will we obtain the truth that makes us free, that provides salvation (Romans 1:16).

Paul, in writing to Titus, indicated that the saving grace of God is available to man through the avenue of instruction: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, . . ." (Titus 2:11-12). And Titus was given the authority to teach this: "These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you." (Titus 2:15). All who seek the spiritual blessings of God should strive to receive the teaching of God's grace! This instruction is vitally important!

Dear reader, there is a choice for you today involving two options. You may choose to receive instruction from God's word, or you may choose otherwise (instruction from some other source, or no instruction at all). But before you give your final answer, please note what wise Solomon had to say about it: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7). Further, ". . . when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge." (Proverbs 21:11). Since fools despise instruction and the wise receives knowledge when instructed, we should "Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it." (Proverbs 8:33). Which will you choose? And what are the resulting consequences of your choice?

The one who receives instruction from the Lord "is on the path of life" (Proverbs 10:17). According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, he gains valuable spiritual knowledge from teaching, including rebuke and correction for his faults. He is trained in righteousness, being able "to discern good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). This is the pathway for the "man of God" who becomes "equipped for every good work." He is mindful of the needs of others and offers his thankful praise to God. His days belong to the Lord. His relationships are the Lord's prospects for salvation. His views are transformed into the righteous perspectives of the holy God. Jesus Christ holds his purpose for living, and the result is eternal life in the blessings of God!

On the other hand, the foolish will be brought to ruin (Luke 6:47-49). The frightening results of choosing to go against God's way bring bad things in this life and irreparable horrors in the next. Unrighteous behavior of those who turn from the Lord's instruction

shame respected families and disrupt peaceful societies as they spiral downward in a course of self-destruction and harm to others.

Friend, where do you stand today? If you are unfaithful to the instruction of your Creator in the Holy Bible, change your course! Be wise and receive life through the gospel of Jesus Christ!

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it." (Proverbs 9:10-12).

- Gary Smalley

* "Be patient with the faults of others, they have to be patient with yours!"

* "Be an organ donor: Give your heart to Jesus Christ!"

* "As sure as God allows his children to be put into the furnace, He will be in the furnace with them!"

* "All TV is educational, but what are your children learning?"

* "Anything that is impossible with man, is possible with God!"

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)