

Family Matters

Chapter 15

By Dale Payne

Raising Our Daughters To Be Godly Women:

I didn't think it would be so difficult. I agreed to walk her down the aisle and also to officiate the service. No problem right? I am not an overly emotional father... until I saw her in her wedding dress and started her down that long aisle. I was supposed to be the strong one, but I honestly didn't think I would make it myself. Our daughters grow up so quickly. I remember just yesterday walking with each of them hand in hand at the park, or teaching them how to fish for trout in a High Sierra stream, or hiking with them in the backcountry, or belaying them climbing up a rock, or kissing them good night at bedtime after reading a book to them, or giving them a long hug when they needed it the most. Our home sadly has become more and more quiet as our children fly the coup. Bedrooms are empty and the dinner table has several empty chairs. But that is what our job ultimately is as parents, to train our children to leave us well.

You can't help keep from crying at songs like "Cinderella" by Steven Curtis Chapman, or "Half The Man" by Jennifer Smestad, or "Butterfly Kisses" by Bob Carlisle, or "When We're Together" in the movie Courageous by Mark Harris, or "How To Say Goodbye" by Michael W. Smith. For moms "One heartbeat at a time" by Steven Curtis Chapman is wonderful.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrWMBC6yoME&list=RDnrWMBC6yoME&start_radio=1&rv=nrWMBC6yoME&t=12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oqrn5cHrHZc&list=RDOqrn5cHrHZc&start_radio=1&rv=Oqrn5cHrHZc&t=0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oqrn5cHrHZc&list=RDOqrn5cHrHZc&index=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmC3rJR7E98>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmC3rJR7E98&list=RDvmC3rJR7E98&index=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBtWJpManEU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBtWJpManEU&list=RDdBtWJpManEU&index=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vluPZrONQoY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVM2GF-HyM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9JTwJ_1lzE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAg2Sg43Hfc>

I dare you dads to play these songs and not get emotional. Our little girls are precious gifts to us. The short time we have with them as parents seems like a quick moment in time. How we maximize that time with them loving, training, disciplining them, will set the tone for the rest of their lives. Modeling before them what godliness is, will shape them in their choices of future mates and how they raise their future families. We need to train our daughters to be godly women, wives, and mothers, and help them seek a godly young man as a mate. There is no higher calling as parents – as fathers – as mothers.

Unbiblical Voices Must Be Rejected:

The “Declaration of Feminism” states, “Marriage has existed for the benefit of men and has been a legally sanctioned method of control over women. The end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the liberation of woman... Now we know that it is the institution of marriage that has failed us, and we must work to destroy it.” The Feminist Movement questions whether there is more to life than a wife and mother’s role. Their ideology presents women as strong, seeking power, self-actualized, placing their career over their marriage, family, or homemaking. Radical “Feminism” is seen as the liberation from oppressive men (women’s rights/equality). They view the Biblical view of a woman as demeaning, inferior, and limiting women’s potential.

Feminist ideals have snuck into the church. The Egalitarian view minimizes woman’s uniqueness & differences (Gal. 3:28; Eph. 5:21 -v- 1 Cor. 11:3,7,9; Eph. 5:22,24). Many Evangelical feminists embrace the feminist ideal to abolish gender-based roles and challenge the idea that female subordination was a result of the fall and not ordained by God. They argue that male headship and female subordination is part of the curse. They believe, with today’s culture, a woman should no longer be subjugated under male headship because there are no specific role categories or differences between men and women. Liberal Christian feminists use a “hermeneutic of suspicion” in Biblical interpretation to remove anything offensive to women because of their view that Biblical male authors covered up the true role of women. Lost in the middle are women who are career women who hear, “you are too good to stay at home” (you are more significant outside the home), and housewives who hear, “you are not good enough” (you are not the super mom you should be) who can do everything, and therefore, women feel defeated, restless, and discontent at home. What young men and women believe about their roles will have a tremendous impact on the marriages they form, the children they raise, and the legacy they leave.

The Effects Of The Fall:

- Woman took on a role not given to woman by God (Genesis 3:6). Man abdicated his role to lead and protect his wife.

- Woman began to wrongfully desire to have authority over her husband (Genesis 3:16 “desire to conquer” or “seek to control”). When a man leads rightly, it will protect the woman from the full effects of her curse in marriage. Women find great comfort, security, and fulfillment when men exercise their God-given roles. “Male-led marriage is not the curse. The strife within marriage is the curse. The woman will try to take over, but she will not be happy if she succeeds. Everyone is happier if the man plays the man, holds his ground, takes responsibility, and stays in the seat of leadership (Five Aspects of Woman, p. 113). Because of sin, men can become abusive in their God-given role and use of power over woman (“authoritarian or domineering rule”). Teach these principles to your daughters.
- There was a loss of distinction between male/female roles and gender markers (Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:14,15).
- Women, as part of the curse of their disobedience, will despise their role as wife and mother, and become hostile to their family responsibility (Deut. 28:53,56).
- Leadership gender specific roles were reversed because of sin (Is. 3:12 – When a woman ruled a nation, it was God’s judgment on Israel’s sin.) (When warriors became fearful like women - Jer. 50:37; 51:30; Nah. 3:13; Is. 19:16)
- Daughters then followed the bad examples of their sinful mothers and usurped the husband’s role (Ezek. 16:44,45 “like mother, like daughter”).
- Natural sexual desire between man & woman became perverted and the line between gender became obscured (Rom. 1:26,27; Gen. 13:13; 18:20; 19:5-8; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Jude 7; 1 Tim. 1:9,10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

John Piper and Wayne Grudem state:

“We are concerned not merely with the behavioral roles of men and women but also with the underlying nature of manhood and womanhood themselves. Biblical truth and clarity in this matter are important because error and confusion over sexual identity leads to (1) Marriage patterns that do not portray the relationship between Christ and the Church; (2) Parenting practices that do not train boys to be masculine or girls to be feminine; (3) Homosexual tendencies and increasing attempts to justify homosexual alliances; and (4) Patterns of unbiblical female leadership in the church that reflect and promote the confusion over the true meaning of manhood and womanhood.” (Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism, p.60)

Training Daughters Begins With A Correct View Of Biblical Femininity.

What Is Woman?

Genesis 2:18 “It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

- “suitable helper”, responder, follower, help-mate, companion, compliment

1 Corinthians 11:7-9 “The woman is the glory of man. For the man does not

originate from woman, but the woman from man. For indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake... if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her..."

A Mother's Lasting Impact

No one on earth holds more sway over precious children's hearts and minds than their own mother. Her life, words, touch, actions, attitudes, and prayers shape the future. Even with an absent, unbelieving, or disobedient father (1 Pet. 3:1,2), the mother's power of influence is huge in the life of her children (1 Cor. 7:13,14). Usually, she is the #1 discipler in her children's lives. A stay-at-home mom spends the bulk of her time with her children day in-day out. It is through her faithful teaching of Biblical principles that her children, by God's grace, become what they are (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15; Prov. 31:28). There is no higher calling.

Training Daughters:

Mothers Need To Model Biblical Femininity To Their Daughters.

The first and most important place mothers will impact their families is in their view and attitude toward their God-given role as it applies to submission to their own husband's position of authority as head of their home. Wives are given the responsibility to voluntarily submit to their own husband's leadership. Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's lead and an inclination to follow alongside. She is his helpmate, created for her husband, created originally from Adam's rib to come alongside him as a suitable companion. Submission is an obedient choice of wives and daughters. Submission is never only for women (Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:5), nor is it commanded of a woman in regard to other men (Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; Ti. 2:5 - "own husband"). It is not bondage or stifling, where a woman is invisible and only seen in the background. The Scripture never implies a woman is inferior or less equal with a man. This calling and attitude must be passed on to our daughters graciously by a mother's obedience. It begins by modeling it before their children's eyes at home. God has ordained in Scripture specific gender roles for men and women within the home and church. We need to take every opportunity through every teachable moment to purposefully prepare our daughters to be the best suitable helper she can be for her future husband. The most attractive adornment for any wife and mother is the godly virtue of a meek and quiet spirit of submission which must be passed on to daughters. My wife is a very intelligent and capable woman, and she has willingly submitted herself to follow my lead with a quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:4-6). This is such an attractive character trait to me, and because of her willing submission, it has caused me to be a better man and leader in our home. Mothers, there is no better or more important place to live this principle out, than in your home with your husband and kids. Young women will probably be significantly like their mothers in their actions and attitudes regarding submission. Remember, ultimately our submission is "as to the Lord" first and foremost.

*Ephesians 5:22 "Wives be **subject** to your own husband, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church..."*

*Colossians 3:18 “Wives, be **subject** to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”*

(“fitting” means “proper” – not optional)

*Titus 2:5 “Older women are to be reverent in their behavior... teaching what is good, so that they may encourage young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind being **subject** to their own husbands, so that the Word of God will not be dishonored.”*

*1 Peter 3:1-6 “You wives, be **submissive** to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external – braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being **submissive** to their own husbands, just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”*

1 Corinthians 7:33,34 “The one who is married is concerned about... how she may please her husband.”

Responding To Egalitarian Conflicting Views

Although Ephesians 5:21 mentions “be subject to one another,” it should not be understood as equal “mutual submission” canceling out a wife’s need to submit to her husband, because in the following passage which parallels Christ’s relationship to the church, Christ is never said to submit Himself to His church. He laid His life down for her.

In Galatians 3:28 it mentions “there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” This does not mean there are no distinctions between Jews or Greeks, slaves or freemen – or even man and woman. That would be meaningless in a society of individual differences. This is referring to being of equal value together in Christ as believers.

Specific Commands In Scripture Regarding The Position Of Authority In The Church:

1 Corinthians 11:2,8,11,12 “...Hold firmly to the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

“Woman is the glory of man. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but the woman for the man’s sake.” “In the Lord, neither is woman independent of man nor is man independent of woman.” “For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.”

1 Corinthians 14:34,35 "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. The women are to keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is improper for a woman to speak in church."

1 Timothy 2:11-15 "I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created and then Eve."

Some women chafe against these passages as if they are only cultural issues and feel they are demeaning to contemporary women's rights and privilege. However, in the context of these passages, certain women in the Corinthian church were out of order leading in the worship service and were causing chaos. Paul addresses this to all churches. Women, rather than taking the initiative to lead, were commanded by God to follow their husband's lead. It was improper for women to take on the corporate teaching or speaking role when they were placed by God in a supportive role to their husbands in the church and in the family. This does not take away women's opportunity to teach other women or their own children (Titus 2).

Wives need to...

Wives need to love their husbands unconditionally (without conditions or requirements); uninterrupted (without stopping or intervals); unselfishly (without concern for personal needs or desires first); and freely (without shame or embarrassment).

Mothers need to...

Mothers need to love their daughters (and sons) unconditionally. The power of a mother's love cannot be overestimated. There is no human love like a mother's love. Sadly today, many mothers are in the work force and miss opportunities with their children at that early age because of their careers. H. C. Trumbull said, "There is no such time for a mother's impressive display of her love and tenderness toward her child as in the child's earliest years of his life. That time neglected, and no future can make good the loss to either mother or child. That time improved, and all the years that follow it shall give added proof of its improvement" (p. 159). St. Augustine said, "It is to my mother that I owe everything. If I am thy child, O my God, it is because thou gavest me such a mother. If I prefer the truth to all things, it is the fruit of my mother's teaching. If I did not long ago perish in sin and misery, it is because of the long and faithful years which she pleaded for me" (Trumbull, p. 163). "Were it not for the power of a mother's love, that best and truest side of a man's nature would never be developed, for the man's good, and for the mother's reward. (p.165). The future good

or bad conduct of a child is said to depend largely upon its mother. What little we know about Jesus' early childhood, we hear of Mary's response to her experience with her son, and in Luke 2:51,52 it says, "and (Mary) treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."

Bonnie Barnett in Word Filled Families quotes a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13 specifically for mothers.

"If I talk to my children about what is right and what is wrong, but have not love, I am like a ringing doorbell or pots banging in the kitchen. And though I know what stages they will go through, and understand their growing pains, and can answer all their questions about life, and believe myself to be a devoted mother, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give up the fulfillment of a career to make my children's lives better, and stay up all night sewing costumes or baking cookies on short notice, but grumble about lack of sleep, I have not love and accomplish nothing. A loving mother is patient with her children's immaturity and kind even when they are not; a loving mother is not jealous of their youth nor does she hold it over their heads whenever she has sacrificed for them. A loving mother does not push her children into doing things her way. She is not irritable, when the chicken pox has kept her confined with three whining children for two weeks, and does not resent the child who brought the affliction home in the first place. A loving mother is not relieved when her disagreeable child finally disobeys her directly and she can punish him, but rather rejoices with him when he is being more cooperative. A loving mother bears much of the responsibility for her children; she believes in them; she hopes in each one's individual ability to stand out as a light in a dark world; she endures every backache and heartache to accomplish that. A loving mother never really dies. As for home baked bread, it will be consumed and forgotten; as for spotless floors, they will soon gather dust and heel marks. And as for children, well, right now toys, friends, and food are all important to them. But when they grow up, it will have been how their mother loved them that will determine how they love others. In a way, she will live on. So, care, training, and a loving mother reside in a home, these three, but the greatest of these is a loving mother."

Parents need to...

Parents need to feel loving compassion and sympathy for their children's struggles and disappointments. Any child wants someone to share his feelings with. In order to truly sympathize with another, we must be able to put ourselves in their place – mentally and emotionally, to consider their point of view and see what they see and how they see it. When a child grasps that his parents truly want to understand his world, he will open up in ways every parent long to experience. If a child feels alone, or that a parent doesn't love or care for him, he will close off any future openness and be compelled to live his life as though he was parentless. One area where this love and compassion is tested is when a child unintentionally breaks some fragile

keepsake particularly dear to the parent. How we respond to our disappointment will communicate what is more valued and if we are more moved by regret for the child's sorrow over the mishap, than for the loss of the precious relic that has no eternal value. The confidence we have in finding compassion when we struggle is that Jesus was a man, and fully understands our weakness, because He was fully human on this earth and experienced what we experience (Heb.2:14,17; 4:15,16).

Training Daughters:

Parents must train their daughters in the importance of coming under her father's authority or older brother's leadership (Ti. 2:4,5; 1 Tim. 5:1,2) as she prepares to follow her future husband (Numbers 30). How she responds to present authority (father) will directly affect her future marriage relationship (husband) in God's chain of command within the family. (Eph. 5:23; Gen. 18:19; 1 Tim. 3:4; Ex. 22:17; Lev. 22:13; Num. 30:5). The father has a unique role and responsibility with daughters. Biblically, the father gives the daughter away to another young man in marriage (Deut. 7:3,4; Gen. 34:8; Ex. 22:17; Josh. 15:16; 1 Cor. 7:38). When he passes the baton, he is transferring the responsibility for the care and protection of his daughter to another man whom she will come under. He guarantees her virginity (Deut. 22:15,17,19).

Parents need to encourage daughters to be feminine and distinct from a male. Girls are different (by design) than boys (physically/emotionally). Girls love to be cherished, pursued, held, talked with. They need security. They want and need to be understood. They are sensitive and need a father's tenderness. Their emotions flow like a river and are not easily diverted. Let her be a woman (feminine, pretty, soft, gentle, kind, orientated toward relationships, sensitive, nurturing) (Titus 2:4,5). She is not your son. She is your daughter.

Deuteronomy 22:5 "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God."

1 Corinthians 11:14,15 "Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is glory to her, for her hair is given to her for a covering." (There should be a distinction between male/female.)

Parents should teach daughters to understand that marriage and being a prudent (wise) wife and mother is a high calling and a great blessing of God.

Proverbs 31:10 "An excellent wife, who can find? Her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her..."

Proverbs 19:14 "House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD."

Proverbs 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD."

Parents should teach daughters about healthy, natural, God-ordained, sexuality between a husband and wife in marriage. Protect marital purity. There is only one place and one person God has given to fulfill our physical desire, and that is with our mate in marriage. (Gen. 24:16; Rom. 1:26,27; Prov. 5:15-19; 18:22)

Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is to be held in honor among all and the marriage bed is to be undefiled, for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Parents must teach moral purity, modesty, virginity, and self-control. These traits begin in their childhood which are carried into their teenage years. Purity of heart is reflected by a desire for modesty and modesty is reflected in the clothing we choose to wear. What a teen chooses to put on or not to put on the outside is a reflection of their inner heart and character. God invented clothing (Gen. 3:21). Throughout the Bible, clothing represents the heart of man either to cover man's uncleanness and nakedness (Gen. 3:7) or to picture being clothed fully in Christ's righteousness and to highlight those who minister to God (Ex. 28:2). Clothing either can be used to enhance beauty (Prov. 31:22; 1 Pet. 3:3-5) or for lustful seduction (Prov. 6:25; 7:10; Is. 3:16-24; 2 Pet. 2:14). Clothing is not to be showy, draw attention to our bodies, where we focus, nor define what is truly beautiful (Lk. 20:46; 1 Pet. 3:3,4; 1 Tim. 2:9).

1 Timothy 2:9 "I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly... as is proper for women making a claim to godliness."

Romans 13:12-14 "Let us behave properly... not in carousing...not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality... and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust."

1 Corinthians 6:18,20 "Flee immorality... the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you... therefore glorify God in your body."

2 Corinthians 6:17 "Come out from their midst and be separate... do not touch what is unclean...let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Proverbs 20:11 "It is by his (her) deeds that a lad (lass) distinguishes himself (herself), if his (her) conduct is pure and right." (true for both genders)

Philippians 2:15 "Prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world." (1 Pet. 3:16)

Proverbs 11:22 "Like a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion." (taste)

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain..."

1 Peter 2:11,12 "Abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul, keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may, because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."

Leviticus 19:28 "You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves; I am the LORD."

Hebrews 13:18 "For we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things."

Philippians 1:27 "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

2 Timothy 2:19 "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

Deuteronomy 22:5 "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing." (Proper clothing enhances distinction and prevents gender confusion.)

Dads, if you don't give your daughters the love she is longing for from you her father, she will go looking for it wrongly in other ways in the men who come around. Young girls fall into sexual sin, not so much because they are searching for sex, but because they are deceived into thinking they are loved by someone who plays at love to get sex. A girl with a sexual problem usually has a security problem. Sensuality and lewdness are a woman desiring to be a man's pornography. She lusts to be lusted after. Some women want more than to be attractive or desirable to men, they want power to control men (Prov. 2:16-19; 5:3-23; 6:24-35; 7:5-27). Men are suckers for what they see. Emphasizing the virtues of virginity, modesty, and self-control minimize these struggles.

Proverbs 4:23 "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."

Parents must help their daughter in her selection of a qualified godly future mate. Our daughters should be looking for a young man who: (1) has a solid Biblical theology of marriage and family, (2) has a love for children and desires to be a father, (3) and has the desire to be committed to a life-long marriage partner who will be both a good wife and mother.

Biblical Passages On Training Daughters:

Proverbs 31:10-31

Many ancient Jewish rabbis believed Solomon wrote this proverb to his mother Bathsheba in reference to his great-great-grandmother Ruth (Ruth 3:11; 4:9,10). This is the prayer of every mother for the future wife of her godly son. This is what every

woman desires to be by God's grace. This is what every godly young man should be looking for in seed form in a woman he would choose to marry.

10 "An excellent wife, who can find? Her worth is far above jewels."

-Teach her to pursue excellence in everything she does and never to be satisfied with mediocrity. Her character is priceless to God. A virtuous godly woman (wife and mother) far exceeds any earthly wealth.

- "Behind every good man is a good woman."

Ruth 3:11 "All my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence."

Proverbs 12:4 "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband."

Proverbs 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD."

Proverbs 31:29 "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all."

-Teach her that internal character is more desirable than external beauty. Help her focus on inner godly qualities, not only on external fading looks.

(worth = who we are, not what we look like or what we can do)

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."

1 Peter 3:3,4 "Your adornment must not be merely external... but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit which is precious in the sight of God."

- Teach her virginity, modesty, self-control are important womanly virtues.

Teach against sensuality, wrong sexual desire, sexual immorality, and seduction.

1 Timothy 2:9,10 "Women... adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly... as is proper for women making a claim to godliness."

Proverbs 6:25 "The adulteress... do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids."

*Proverbs 7:10,11,21 "(She) is dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. She is boisterous and rebellious and her feet do not remain at home."
"With her many persuasions she entices him..."*

Leviticus 21:13 "He shall take a wife in her virginity." (Deut. 22:15)

Virginity means complete sexual purity in both body and soul. It does not mean only sexual intercourse, but includes being free of inappropriate touch, intimate kissing (oral/anal sex), and carassing (Ezek. 23:3,8,21). Our most important sex organ is our mind. Being a virgin means having a clean conscience before God. One definition stated, "one not touched, used, or exploited," and "a person who is innocent or inexperienced in a certain context."

11 “The heart of her husband trusts in her, he’ll have no lack of gain.”

12 “She does him good and not evil all of the days of her life”

- A trustworthy woman brings great confidence to those she is closest to.
- Her man has complete trust in her and faith in her godly character. He can trust her with money, with time, with precious children, with his inner thoughts, because she will never misuse what she has been entrusted with.
- Once a daughter proves herself trustworthy, give her tasks around the home and leadership responsibilities over her siblings to help her become even more reliable. Help her guard her tongue and never be a gossip.
- When we are trustworthy at home, the whole family benefits.
- A virtuous woman serves her family, beginning with her husband.
- A good marriage is faithful “till death do us part.”

13 “She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight.”

- Teach her to “work with her hands” with joy on special projects like sewing, making clothes, creative cards, artwork, room decoration, laundry, and gardening. A home-maker is an admirable role.
- Help her develop a good work ethic (joyous diligence)
- Her hands are devoted to serving others, rather than tending to herself.
- She should have a delightful attitude in how she approaches work which is crucial for her daughter to see and learn to emulate.

14 “She is like merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.”

- Teach her to shop and plan out menus and how to meet the family’s ongoing needs. Include her in the decision making.

15 “She rises while it is still night and gives food to her household.”

- Her family is her top priority (2 Tim. 2:4,5; 1 Tim. 5:14).
- Help a daughter develop self-discipline by getting up early and making the most of her time. Challenge her not to be lazy or idle. Teach her to do first things first. Teach her how to plan ahead and schedule her day.
- As she grows, give her additional responsibility to cook the meals for the family. Develop homemaking skills and care for the family (regular balanced meals, baking, special desserts), life skills she will need as a good wife and mother, as well as qualities which would be beneficial as a single woman.

16 “She considers a field and buys it. From her earnings she plants a vineyard.”

- Allow her to manage her money she receives from babysitting or other jobs. Get her a checking account and debit card. Teach her financial accounting.
- Teach her good stewardship and faithful giving.
- Teach her how to be frugal and not be wasteful. Hard work is always productive.

- Teach her how to save, and the dangers of debt and over spending.
- The Bible does not forbid a woman from working, as long as she can still be faithful to her primary role of loving her husband, nurturing her children, and caring for her home (Titus 2).
 - 50% of all women are now in the work force. There are over 50 million working moms in America. Most have young children who come home to an empty home because mom is at work.
 - Mothers pay a high price when they leave home to pursue a career. They end up abdicating their most crucial role as the primary caregiver to their own children and substitute part-time day care or grandparents for themselves.
 - Working mothers are a major reason so many parents are at loss to know how to raise their children – mainly because they are not home. God’s design for mothers is to be home nurturing their children and supporting their husband. Moms can’t be spectators from the sidelines.

Voddie Baucham wrote a poem that fits our dysfunctional family culture.

Put The Baby In The Beemer

Put the baby in the Beemer
Mommy has to go to work
Careful now, try not to wake her
Grab her shoes, put on her shirt

Put the baby in the beemer
Daddy’s Benz has no car seat
Mommy can’t be late this morning
She’s a deadline she must meet

Put the baby in the Beemer
Drive her quickly down the road
Kiss her sweetly; say you’ll miss her
Then, chop-chop you’ve got to go

Put the baby in the Beemer
Let her take herself to school
She’s got her driver’s license
Rides with parents just aren’t cool

Put the baby in the Beemer
Let her go off on a date
She’ll (hopefully) be careful, and we’ve taught her

Not to come back home too late

Put the baby in the Beemer
Off to college she must go
At Christmas time we'll (hopefully) see her
Maybe this year there'll be snow

Put the baby in the Beemer
This is what mom did with me
She'll be fine at day care, honey
Just you trust me; wait and see

Put the baby in the Beemer
I'll get that promotion soon
Then we'll get a bigger Beemer
Baby takes up too much room

17 *"She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong."*

- Encourage her to get regular exercise and have good personal hygiene so she has the strength and stamina to take care of her future family. Exercise produces endurance and perseverance.
- Train her how to keep a family healthy and how to use first aid.
- She works with her hands and primarily serves her family first, but she is willing to serve others in need.

18 *"She senses that her gain is good; her lamp doesn't go out at night."*

- Teach her how to be self-sufficient and not dependent.
- Teach her to prepare for the future, looking beyond the present.
- Help her develop skills that may help in the finances of the family in the future (secondary income).

20 *"She extends her hand to the poor ... and needy."*

- Provide opportunities for her to help the poor and widows, and encourage her to be unselfish, generous, and give to the needs of others. (Prov. 11:16; Acts 9:36; 1 Tim. 5:9,10,14)

21 *"She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet."*

- Teach her to prepare for potential emergencies by planning ahead for the possible needs of her family during a crisis including food, clothing, water, medical, warmth, and first aid.

22 “She makes coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.”

- Teach her to be resourceful and creative in her home skills.
- Challenge her to strive for excellence in everything she does to the glory of God.

23 “Her husband is known in the gates...”

- Her behavior affects the family’s reputation for good (Prov. 20:11).
She complements her husband’s purpose and ministry.

24 “She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies belts to the tradesman.”

- Give her opportunity to use her creative gifts to financially benefit the family.

25 “Strength and dignity are her clothing, she smiles at the future.”

- Help her develop a gracious personality and to have a positive outlook on the future (Lord willing).

26 “She opens her mouth in wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”

- What comes out of her mouth is wise, kind, encouraging, true, and right.
- Moms have the greatest influence in leading their children to righteousness.
- Her speech is always “seasoned” “with grace” (Col. 4:6). Her words bless.
- Teach a daughter to control her tongue and to pursue wisdom.
- Help her keep God’s word near to her heart (daily Bible reading) (Col. 3:16)
- Remind her that humility is the foundation for gentleness and kindness.

27 “She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

- Train her to take her future responsibility as wife and mother seriously for the welfare of her family and to fight against the natural tendency towards laziness or selfishness in her pursuits.

28 “Her children rise up and bless her, her husband also, and he praises her saying,”

29 “Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.”

- The result of a virtuous wife and mother is that she is praised for her faithfulness to her family. She is such a blessing in the lives of her husband and kids.
- Don’t let anyone cause you moms or daughters to think that there is nothing noble about remaining at home, raising a family, or serving your husband and kids. It is the noblest thing for which to be known. If you do so, you will reap a harvest of praise and blessing.
- Fathers, teach your children with every opportunity to express their gratefulness for having a godly mother, especially on Mother’s Day. Dads, you model frequent verbal praise toward your wife. Sacrificially serve her to express your thankfulness for her as wife and mother.

30 “Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.”

- Help daughters to see God cares more about our internal character and walk with Him than our exterior being. Taking care of our body is important, but it quickly fades over time. Our focus should be more on developing godly character through obedience to God’s Word. We should be more about being good than looking good.
- Teach your daughters the fear of the Lord (through life conversation).
- This type of character is praiseworthy and lasting.

31 “Give her the product of her hands and let her works praise her in the gates.”

- A faithful wife and mother will have results to show for her life well lived.
- Our greatest platform to speak is based on the evidence people see lived out in our home life (1 Tim. 3:4,5). (“gates” were what was visible in public)
- Praise and admiration flows from a life lived before others in righteousness.
- A godly wife and mother can be a mentor for other women to follow.

Titus 2:4-5 “Older women are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home (homemakers), kind, being submissive to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

- Priority of women should be their marriage, their children, and their home.
- Women modeling righteous behavior at home is crucial.
- Desired qualities to encourage our daughters to be:
 - Teach your daughters respectable behavior
 - Teach her self-control in her tongue and desires
 - Train her in goodness and godliness
 - Teach her the benefits of unconditionally loving her husband and to be a one-man woman, totally devoted to him.
 - Teach her to love her children both in word and example
 - Model loving submission and a godly marriage to your daughters
 - Teach her to be sensible (Self-controlled, self-disciplined, to use common sense and sound judgment, self-denial)
(Ti. 2:12; 2 Cor. 7:2,9; 1 Thess. 4:4; Rom. 13:13,14; Col. 3:5)
 - Train her to be pure. A godly wife and mother is morally pure, virtuous, and sexually faithful to her husband. A pure wife is devoted to her man in body and soul. She guards her eyes, ears, and heart from anything that is impure. (Phil. 4:8)
 - Teach her that her primary responsibility as mom is at home (“manages” or “rules the home”)

Train her to be kind (gracious/tender/having a joyful spirit)

Proverbs 14:1 *“A wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”*

- Moms, you set an example for your daughters in the management of your home. What we model at home directly affects what our daughters and sons become as adults, for good or for bad.
- Train daughters early to learn to “build up” a home by cooking, cleaning, decorating, caring for young children, and managing the home well.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 *“We proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.”*

1 Timothy 2:9-11 *“I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly, and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.”*

- Teach her modesty, decency, and propriety.
(Contrast the sensual woman of Proverbs 7:10,11,21,25; Ephesians 4:17-19; 5:3,5; Prov. 11:22)
- Call her to good deeds which are appropriate for a Christian woman.
- Teach her to have a teachable, moldable spirit.
- Help her to yield herself to God-ordained authority willingly.

1 Timothy 3:11 *Deacons’ wives are “women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers, but temperate and trustworthy in everything.”*

- Is your daughter trustworthy in everything? Train her to be.
- Is she in control of her tongue (gossip)? Help her to be.
- How do others view her? Why is that? What needs to change?

1 Timothy 5:9,10,14 *“I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach.”*

- There are benefits to faithfulness in marriage to one husband.
- Good reputation is valued (raising children/hospitality/Christian service).
- She was known for being devoted, consistent, and hard working.
- The priority of any woman is caring for the needs of her family.

Psalms 113:9 *“He makes the barren woman to abide in the house (to keep house) as a joyful mother of children.”*

- Mom’s first place is in her home with her kids. She is not a “house wife” because she is not married to her house. She is a valuable homemaker.

- Her calling to manage her home and family is far more crucial to the future of her children than anything she might do outside the home.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 *“Gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.”*

- Her ultimate goal as wife and mother is to love her husband, nourish her children, and care for her home.

1 Peter 3:1-7 *“Wives be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if they are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external – braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry or putting on dresses. But let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right, without being frightened by fear. Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone who is weaker, since she is a woman, and show her honor, as a fellow heir of the grace of life...”*

- Daughters, like their mothers, were called to honor God-ordained authority, regardless of the person’s worthiness or obedience. (a wife’s obedience or call to respect is not conditional on her husband’s worthiness.)
- Teach daughters exemplary behavior (purity/reverence)
- A daughter’s focus should be on developing godly character, not on superficial looks. Real beauty comes from the heart.

Beauty in Scripture: Genesis 24:16; 1 Peter 3:5,6

Women desire to be pursued. (discontentment has cousins)

Women are led into lust differently than men. Women lust to be lusted after (Prov. 6:25)

Women are most often seduced emotionally by touch, tenderness, thoughtfulness, sacrifice, or sentiment. Our secular culture draws women into illicit relationships through steamy romance novels, soap operas, and chick flicks. (2 Tim. 2:22; Job 31:7,9, 33)

Mothers and daughters need to be wary of sensual fashion which highlight immodestly parts of the body and defraud fellow brothers in Christ. Fathers need to protect their daughters from sensual clothing. It is amazing to me what girls wear sometimes in public. I wonder, “Where was this girl’s father?” “If you are not for sale, then don’t dress like it.”

- Teach daughters to be thankful for a man's/father's/husband's strength, courage, protection, and provision. Those traits are for her good.

2 Timothy 1:5 *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*

- Generational faith must be passed on for it to last. (Jud. 2:10-12)

Proverbs 1:8; 6:20 *"Do not forsake your mother's teaching.."(Prov. 31:1,2)*

- Passing on the faith from older to younger (Titus 2)
- Be willing to listen, be teachable, and be mentored by godly older women

Acts 9:36 *Tabitha (Dorcas) "this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and love which she continually did."*

- Train in acts of kindness (making meals for sick family, cards expressing appreciation/love, service projects of compassion, teaching children and other women the Bible)

Romans 16:1-3,6 *"I commend to you our sister Phoebe who is a servant of the church... for she herself has also been a helper of many..." "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet the church that is in their house." "Greet Mary who worked hard for you."*

- These women served the church through their faithful ministry for Christ.
- They were known for their hospitality.
- Train daughters to follow their example – love the church, open your home.

1 Corinthians 7:39; 9:5 *"A wife is bound as long as her husband lives, but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, but only in the Lord." "Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife..."*

2 Corinthians 6:14,15 *"Do not be bound together with unbelievers... or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever." (unequally yoked)*

- Believing daughters should only consider marrying another believer.
- Never date an unbeliever or someone from another "religious faith."
- Marriage is for life and should be equally yoked (2 Cor. 6:14,15).
- Genuinely knowing Christ as Savior and Lord together only strengthens a marriage relationship.
- Common theological convictions are also a unifying factor in a good marriage.
- The last person you date is the person you will marry.
- I told my daughters to find a young man that loves Jesus even more than they do. The young man should be the spiritual leader of the home. If the

wife is the strong believer and she marries a weak or questionable believer, it will put a strain on the marriage relationship (1 Pet. 3:1,2).

1 Timothy 2:15 *“The woman will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.”*

- Teach your daughter as a mother (her primary role) is to love her children.
- Women, although they are linked to Eve who was deceived, can be freed from the reproach of that shame, by raising a godly heritage of children who continue in her faith - demonstrating they have been taught personal faith, love, holiness, and self-control.
- Teach your daughter she can have a spiritual impact for generations to come based on what she does as a wife and mother.

What She Must Be:

- Modest in dress
- Gentle in spirit
- Servant at heart
- Prudent with money
- Good in reputation
- Self-controlled in actions
- Holy in conduct
- Dedicated to home
- Worthy of trust
- Diligent in work
- Wise in Truth
- Faithful to Christ

What Daughters Need From Their Dads:

A daughter desperately needs her father. Young women need godly fathers. Girls thrive when they know their dad loves their mom and will be there for them. Fathers play a huge role in their daughter’s self concept, view of men, view of sexuality, how they come to personal relationships, and their security in life.

Proverbs 14:26 “In the fear of the LORD, there is strong confidence and his children will have a place of refuge.”

- Fathers are responsible for protecting their daughters from a sexually driven society (Gen. 31:50; Deut. 22:21; Ezek. 23:3,8,21; 1 Thess. 4:4-7; 2 Tim. 2:22; Lev. 19:29; 1 Cor. 7:38) and to train them to value virginity and sexual purity (Gen. 24:16; Is. 62:5; Deut. 22:17,20,27-29; Lev. 21:13,14; Lk. 1:34; 1 Cor. 7:28; 2 Cor. 11:2), modesty (1 Tim. 2:9,10; 1 Pet. 3:3-5; Prov. 31:30; 7:10,11), and to protect their future marriage bed (Deut. 7:3,4; Heb. 13:4; Ezra 9:12; Neh. 10:30;13:25; Judg. 3:6,7; Num. 30). This means that parents need closer oversight of their daughters when they are with coeds (chaperoned). We must do everything in our power to protect their moral purity and virginity and guard any potential situations where their purity might be compromised. Ultimately this involves protecting and guarding their hearts (Prov. 4:23).

Ephesians 5:3,12 "But immorality or any impurity... must not even be named among you as is proper among saints. And there must be no filthiness and silly talk or coarse jesting which are not fitting." "It is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret."

2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness... with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

Questions:

• Sexual purity

Are your girls virgins? How do you know?

How much do you allow your girls to be physically touched by boys?

What is happening in public view is only a hint of what is actually happening in private.

• Visual purity

Are your girls modest in their dress?

Are they drawn toward sensual dress or style? Why is that?

What are they reading or watching? What voices influence?

What do they talk about with other girls?

How do their girlfriends dress or act?

Do they lust after being lusted after?

How much time is focused on their external body?

• Emotional purity (beware of emotional promiscuity)

Who are your girls talking to online or texting? What are they saying?

When is the last time you checked their Facebook page, or text messages to boys? (high intimacy–low commitment–minimal discernment)

Have they been intimate with their emotions prematurely with others which should be reserved only for their future mate?

Is there any protected space or is all laid bare to whomever will listen?

An old wise saying goes, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." Casual, recreational dating is dangerous because the last person you date is the person you marry. Our daughters should be looking for a God-honoring, Christ-exalting, Bible believing young man that will be a good future husband. All the more for us to be dependant on the Lord and His Word to help us during this process. That young man should have enough maturity, sensitivity, and courage to avoid arousing the affections of a young woman prematurely. Solomon said, "Do not arouse or awaken my love until she pleases..." (Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 8:4). We

as parents must warn our daughters of wolves in sheep's clothing. Any guy that comes on strong too quickly is not to be trusted and must be abandoned. We need to help guard our daughter's heart and to present to her future husband a "pure virgin" (2 Cor. 11:2) both in body and soul. Dads, we are the gatekeepers. Every guy/gal relationship either tears away pieces of our daughter's heart or strengthens her for the future. Is she better off or worse off having known or been with this young man?

Another area of concern is time. Time is precious. When a young girl focuses her time and energy on a "casual" dating relationship, it robs her of both her time, energy, and her mental and emotional sanity. When the mind turns to jello, nothing else seems to matter. Some call this being "twitterpated." Once you allow your kids to date, you can bet their grades and commitments will tank. Young girls can spend an inordinate amount of time "dating" their boyfriend, daydreaming about their significant other, reading about relationships, texting, calling, and just hanging around this new found attraction. That relationship becomes all consuming. The guy just seems to appear, and stay, and eat anything in the frig (Prov. 25:16). *Proverbs 25:17 says, "Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house, or he will become weary of you and hate you."* The guy seems to think he owns your daughter as his own property – no investment, no lifetime commitment, no sacrifice to get to this point – no real regard for you as her parents. It is a little premature when our kids are in Jr. High and High School to have a serious relationship. Sexually, it is like lighting a Fourth of July Roman Candle and then wondering what to do with it as it goes off. Many relationships crash and burn because they focus only on the physical and it destroys their friendship. There are a lot of shipwrecks in our youth culture, and sadly, many gave more than just their emotions on the dating altar. Most youth that date during High School never see each other again after they graduate. To many, it becomes just a fuzzy past memory, but to others, the guilt and scars of what they did lingers for many years.

As parents, we must guard our daughters from getting involved with someone either too young, or in an unhealthy way. Our family set a standard of "only be the best of friends" in Jr. High and High School. We encouraged doing things supervised in groups with the church youth group. Our kids have had interest in coeds, but we did not allow them to have any serious relationships until they were in college, and when they could demonstrate their ability either to say NO (Titus 2:12), or they proved they were trustworthy and demonstrated control over their own desires. Those who wanted to spend time with my daughter had to come to me first. I am

the gatekeeper for my home. No parent in their right mind would hand their son or daughter the keys to a race car when they are 15 years old and expect them to come back in one piece. The temptation to speed is overwhelming, and so it is with allowing your kids to date, and to allow them to express themselves physically before they are mature enough to set up personal standards of purity, and have the strength of character to keep them. The sexual desire is powerful, and anyone who thinks differently is fooling themselves, or just plain naïve. The idea that “you have to kiss a lot of toads before you find your handsome prince,” is a lie. Keep your heart, body, and lips reserved for the one you will spend the rest of your life with. I remember when I first saw my bride coming down the aisle at our wedding, a still small voice in my head said, “See, it was worth the wait!” Our Heavenly Father truly knows what is best and what will bring us the greatest satisfaction. Be praying for God’s protection on your children and for purity for your kid’s future mates.

Why is the father the one who gives his daughter away in marriage (Deut. 7:3,4; Jer. 29:6; 1 Cor. 7:38)? The dad is the gatekeeper. The dad’s consent for who his daughter dates and eventually marries does matter. He is the one (with his wife’s agreement) who ultimately is responsible to give his daughter away to the groom in the marriage ceremony. If the daughter walks out the front door with a loser of a boyfriend, it is the dad’s fault for dropping his guard on his watch. The father must ensure that certain requirements are met before he gives his blessing on the relationship. What evaluation questions were asked prior to the daughter accepting the date or the proposal? Where was the dad in screening her love life? Was he actively involved or disengaged? Will he have regrets later because of his lack of involvement? Why does the consent of the father matter? Why is the prospective son-in-law stressed to meet the father of the bride? The father ultimately is the one responsible to protect his daughter from harm. A few years ago two dads came to me and said their daughters just informed them they were getting married regardless of whether the dad approved of the wedding or not. Both dads were devastated. Somewhere along the line they had checked out and their daughters began to wander and made their own decisions without their parents’ knowledge or consent. Those daughters, by stepping out from under the authority and protection of their father (and mother), open themselves up to great danger that can have a lifetime of consequence. Dads, you need to instill in your daughters early in life as they begin to become interested in boys, the desire to find the best suitable, godly husband and not to settle with second best. Dads, many times we are just not prepared for the day that

conversation with our daughter happens, nor when the prospective young man shows up at our front door. Our kids grow up so fast. Don't allow your daughter to casually date. Why would a man pursue a woman unless marriage is his intention? Or maybe there is something else on his mind that is dishonorable? (Maybe he wants to play with the merchandise without buying the product.) And why would a young man intent on marriage pursue a young woman without first making those intentions known to that women's spiritual and physical protector – her father?

One father took an interested young man into the garage before the boy's date with his daughter, and began to show the boy his gun collection. The father described how he protected and took great care of his shotgun. The father communicated that his "baby" was very important to him and that anyone who handled it needed to be extremely careful. I think the young man got the picture. He left with a new respect for how to treat a young woman honorably on a date because her father cared deeply for his precious little girl. Dads need to stay in the game, not just be spectators on the sidelines wondering what happened when the game goes south.

With the father being the gatekeeper, he can help the daughter say NO! to undesirable young men. Any young man that doesn't meet the parents' and daughter's expectations needs to move on. The daughter can defer to her father, "You will need to ask my father first before I can make the decision about going out with you." Many young men will be too intimidated to take that risk. The father can be the buffer and say no to those whom the daughter also did not want to go out with. These conversations need to happen early in a daughter's life before it gets to a point of no return where she is twitterpated over a boy who is not good for her or there is a ring on the finger. I believe a father should have a "serious" conversation with the prospective young man even before the daughter is allowed to date (pre-date screening). Dads, don't wait until your daughter is engaged before you get involved. If the heart is already gone, it is almost impossible to change. If father (and mother) and daughter are open about this subject, and the daughter loves and honors her parents, she will be open for dialogue because they truly want what is best for her and she respects their opinion.

One of the most crucial questions in parenting is whom should my kids choose to marry and why, and what part do we as her parents play in that selection? I do believe God has someone in mind for my children (Abraham had a part in Isaac's wife Rebekah - Gen.24:3,4,12,14,16,21,

27,48,57,58,67), but we must come to this decision with Biblical wisdom and a humble heart. Genesis 24:14,16,44 says, “May she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac.” God has ordained certain non-negotiables that a qualified young man should exhibit in his life and what a godly young woman should desire in a future mate (believer in Jesus Christ, servant leader, welcomes children (Ps. 127:3-5), protector, provider, loving, spiritual leader, faithful, kind, humble, self-controlled, wise). We must encourage our daughters to settle for nothing less. Any young man who is worthy of a wife will have a clear understanding of the covenantal nature of marriage and a healthy view of his personal responsibility before God. Fathers have the God-given responsibility to see that their daughters marry well and their sons are worthy husbands.

However, daughters are the ones who will walk the aisle and make their vows before God, family, and friends. They will make their own bed and sleep in it. They are responsible before God for their own choices, yet I, as her father, am still responsible to pass the baton with honor and without disqualification in the process. There is a short passing zone that we cannot neglect. We have to get this one right.

Voddie Baucham ended his book What He Must Be with these words. “When the question is asked of me, ‘Who gives this woman to be married to this man? If I am going to answer, ‘I do’ with a clear conscience, then I simply have no choice but to invest significant time into vetting any potential suitor. I cannot give my approval of a man whom God’s Word disqualifies. I love my daughter too much. I love my future grandchildren too much. But most importantly, I love my Lord too much to settle for less’.” (p. 206)

Fathers need to model qualities a daughter should desire in a future mate. “A selfless man will be characterized by patience, restraint, and an eagerness to do what is best for the object of his affections.”

Questions For Dads:

- Based on 1 Peter 3:7, we need, as fathers, to be sensitive to our daughters unique personality and characteristics, love and direct them to be the woman God designed them to be. What are your daughter’s unique attributes?
- Based on Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21, fathers, be careful that you are not overbearing or harsh which can be exasperating to your daughters causing them to become angry or discouraged (lose heart). How have you done so?
- Based on Proverbs 14:26, do your daughters find you are, as their father, a place of

refuge because of your godly fear?

- Based on Isaiah 38:19 and Psalms 78:3-8, are you as her father the spiritual leader in your daughter's life? How are you imparting God's truth to her as your daughter? Do you pray for her? (Job 1:5) Have you brought her up in the knowledge of the LORD?
- Based on 1 Thessalonians 2:11, how are you encouraging, exhorting, urging, and loving your daughter to be godly a young woman?

Summary Training Qualities For Daughters:

- Fear God (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 31:30)
- Home and marriage is the place of great significance (Prov. 31; Heb. 13:4)
- Guard your heart (Prov. 4:23,25-27; 7:21,25)
- Seek Godly wisdom – especially from godly older women (Prov. 1:7,29; 2:5,9; 9:10, Titus 2)
- Be modest and protect your virginity (1 Tim. 2:9,10; 1 Pet. 3:3-5)
- Home and Family (children) is primary importance (Titus 2:4,5)
- Only seek a career with the understanding it will possibly be your secondary role if you do get married. (Prov. 31)
- Inner beauty of the heart is more valuable than external looks. (1 Pet. 3:3-5)
- Strive for excellence in everything you do (Work hard) (Prov. 31)
- Homemaking is an honorable position (being a wife and mother) (Titus 2:4,5)
- You have the opportunity to shape future generations (children)

Don't look at raising your kids as a 21 year trial and error sentence to be endured, but a great opportunity to leave a legacy for generations to come teaching your daughters what to expect in a godly man and teaching your boys what to become in regards to Biblical manhood. That window of opportunity is quickly passing. Jim Elliot once said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. Wherever you are, be all there. God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him." Let's help our daughters and sons to focus on knowing and pleasing Christ first, and if a young man or woman comes along with an even greater passion and desire for Christ which will allow them to do more together for the Kingdom than either of them could do alone, that is even a greater calling. Trust God for His best in the lives of our kids as you are faithful to do and be what God has called you to as parents.