

The Front Door Back Door Phenomena

Men/Husbands/Fathers As Protectors

We as Men are extremely concerned about guarding the front door of our home which might expose our wife and children to dangerous influences which could affect our family, and we should be concerned. The world is imploding morally and socially all around us, and it isn't getting any better with age. We take great pains as husbands and fathers to protect our families from the bad guys by keeping the front door locked, deadbolted, with a shotgun and pepper spray ready to protect our family from exposure to drugs, gangs, predators, rioters, bullies, and thieves. We go to great lengths to put up security cameras and doorbell alarms and feed a big dog with big teeth to help keep us safe and secure at night. Yet we seem to forget all about the the back door of our home which we have left wide open to other subtle, yet destructive influences. I want us to consider a few things regarding what God says about Men being protectors.

#1 Our first priority is to consider ultimately where our confidence stands?

- As Men, we must first find our confidence in God alone, rather than the things of men.

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

Psalms 31:24 "Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD."

Psalms 112:7 "They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD." (27:14; 121:7)

Psalms 127:1 "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keep awake in vain." (we will fail)

Psalms 118:8 "It is better to take refuge in the LORD, than to trust in man."

Proverbs 3:25,26 "Have no fear of sudden disaster, for the Lord will be your confidence.

Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him."

Nehemiah 4:9,20 "We prayed to our God, and because of them, we set up a guard against them." Our God will fight for us." (not either/or but both/and)

Biblical Men Of Courage: *(Biblical examples of faith in desperate times)*

1 Samuel 17:47 (David) "You come to me with a sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. All the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, for The LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear, for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."

Psalms 44:3,6 (David) "For by their own sword they did not possess the land, and their own arm did not save them, but Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, for You favored them." "For I will not trust in my bow, nor will my sword save me."

2 Chronicles 14:11 "Then (Asa) called to the LORD his God and said, 'LORD, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength, so help us O LORD our God, for we trust in You and in Your name have come against this multitude... You are our God, let no man prevail against You.'" "The LORD is with you when you are with Him." (15:1)

2 Chronicles 20:14,15,17 (Jehoshaphat) "We are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us, nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You." "Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You need not fight in this battle, station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf... go out and face them, for the LORD is with you."

2 Chronicles 32:7,8 (Hezekiah) "Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed, because of the king of Assyria nor because of all the horde that is with him, for the one with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles."

Misplaced Confidence: (my guns/ninja skills will save me)

Psalms 33:16,17 "The king is not saved by a mighty army, a warrior is not delivered by great strength..." (not boast in your army/strength)

Jeremiah 9:23 "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the might man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts, boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for I delight in these things."

1 Samuel 2:9 "He keeps the feet of His godly ones... for not by might shall a man prevail."

Securing The Front Door Is Important:

- **Men are called by God to be the protectors and gatekeepers** of our homes.

Husbands, Fathers, we are called to protect our wives and kids.

What does it mean to be the protector, gatekeeper, or guardian?

As Men, we must be willing to do hard things. We are called to be strong and courageous. Humanly speaking, our family should find security in us. My daughter said my snoring gave her confidence she was safe because she knew dad was home (☺). There are times when men have to fight for what is right and have to defend against those that are evil. A gentle man is one who has "strength under control." A discerning man is one who knows when to stand and when to refrain from action. Bravery has always been honored, cowardice has always been rejected.

- A father must be wise in how he uses his strength. He must not overpower in discipline, and must not misuse his strength to harm. He must be careful when he competes

with his sons, and not be overly aggressive or stifling because of his size, ability, or strength.

- The Bible has much to say about men being the protectors.

Numbers 1:2,3 "every male... who is able to go out to war..." (men were on the front lines of war in the military – not women) (women and children were in the lifeboats, men went down with the ship)

Judges 3:1,2 "These are the nations which the LORD left to test Israel by them... in order that the generations of the sons of Israel might be taught war, those who had not experienced it formerly." (There is a time for a just war.)

Psalms 18:34,39 "He trains my hands for battle..." "For You have girded me with strength for battle..." (Ps. 144:1) (God is not a pacifist!)

Nehemiah 4:9,13,14 "We prayed to our God... and set up a guard...I stationed people in families with their swords, spears, and bows... Do not be afraid of them, remember the Lord who is great and awesome, fight for your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

Mark 3:27 Jesus said, "No one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man..."

Luke 11:21 Jesus said, "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed."

Luke 12:39 "Be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

Luke 22:36 Jesus was not against having a weapon, he actually instructed his disciples to "sell their coat and buy a sword." (He never condemned Peter for having a sword.)

1 Corinthians 16:13,14 "Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be Men of courage, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

Strong Men Of Courage Lead Bravely:

- Courage does not mean a person is not afraid. It means that person does what they ought regardless of how they might feel.

- The Bible has much to say about men being courageous.

Joshua 1:6,7 Qualities of a good man were to "be strong and courageous." (10:25)

2 Samuel 1:18 "Teach the sons of Judah the song of the bow..." (valiant men in battle were the remembered heroes) (Fathers, we should be our kids' heroes.)

1 Kings 2:2 (David told his son Solomon) "Be strong, show yourself a man."

1 Chronicles 28:20 (David - Solomon) "Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed for the LORD God, my God, is with you..."

Deuteronomy 20:1-4,7,8 "When you go out to battle... do not be afraid of them, For the LORD your God... is with you. Do not be fainthearted... afraid... panic... or tremble... for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to save you." "Who is the man that is afraid and faint-hearted? Let him depart and return to his house so that he might not make his

brothers heart's melt like his heart." Men were called to be brave & courageous. Cowards were dispersed to go home (Judg. 7:3 Gideon 22,000 went home)

Dads, we must instill in our boys the ability to do the hard thing, to be tough, to get back up, to not quit even when they feel like giving up. Endurance and perseverance are essential traits to develop in our boys. A mark of a man is that we are strong and courageous, even when we may feel fearful and inadequate. These situations are where our confidence in God becomes even more necessary, because we are not always strong and courageous. I'm not.

There are times when a young man must fight. Boys have to learn how to defend themselves and their family honorably. They need to be taught when to turn the other cheek, when to walk away, and when to stand their ground (*Ecc. 3:3-8 "a time to..."*). There may be a life-threatening situation which requires the use of force, or where they may need to stand up to a bully when there is no other way but to restrain him, or to come to a friend's aid who needs help when he is being attacked. A young man must discern how and when to act (*Lk. 22:49-51 "shall we strike with the sword?"; Jn. 18:11 "put your sword into the sheath."*). At times it might be prudent to be silent, yet at other times it may be more prudent to stand strong against evil. A child should be taught never to fight over their own private interests. Some things are not worth fighting for and accomplish nothing by doing so (agitation at school). Yet, there are some good things worth fighting for. Boys will not learn unless their fathers teach them how to be strong, to use discretion, and when to protect themselves and their family. We should teach against abdication, cowardice, vengeance, or retaliation, and instead teach self-control, discernment, restraint, courage, and justice. However, a father chooses to teach his boys self-defense, whether by a use of a certain technique or by the use of a specific weapon, he must teach the overarching principle of Godly fear, true justice & righteousness, personal restraint and self-control.

The Bible indicates that God has ordained authorities to deal with injustice by the use of just force (home & abroad). Yet those authorities may not always be good men or available in the moment of crisis. The use of force must have a just cause. The innocent and those who cannot defend themselves must be protected. There must be no other alternative than using force against evil. The action taken must be proportionate to the threat. True reconciliation must be pursued knowing that peace is a by-product of strength (*Deut. 20:10 peace terms*). Freedom is never free. The Veterans of Foreign Wars states we are "the home of the free because of the brave." The Bible, nor the Christian life, is in any way pacifistic (*Eph. 6:11,13; 2 Tim. 2:3,4; Ex. 4:4; Deut. 20:4; Zech. 14:3; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 2:16; 19:15,21; Ps. 7:11,12*). The Bible refers to training for a just war, the use of weapons, and gives several analogies to the Christian life as being like warfare, and believers as fellow soldiers.

Our boys need to be allowed to play at being protectors and defenders. It is in their DNA. If you take the plastic sword or wooden orange-tip guns or nerf weapons away from boys, they will pick up sticks and pretend to conquer the world anyway. They are men in the making. That is what boys do. That is what good men should do. Boy's play time is the preparation for the responsibilities they will experience in adulthood. If they choose to play with action figures, encourage their imagination toward being virtuous warriors, noble men, with honorable service. God calls men to protect and to conquer. It is throughout the Bible. It is throughout history. Sometimes a man must fight for freedom and justice when there is no other option. We might as well train them while they are young, to value and practice and be ready for their future role as men. To remove this drive from boys is to neuter them and create feminized males devoid of true masculinity.

Our violent "gangster" or "Halo" culture only perverts this trait of men by using violence for evil and personal selfish gain. Instead of fighting evil, they become evil. Instead of protecting the innocent, they become the evil aggressor, oppressor, and kill on whim. Just watch many of the Hollywood movies or computer games and you will understand how graphic and bloody things have become. Listen to a dose of gangster rap and you will hear graphic lawlessness exhibited in our youth culture cloaked in the expression of it being free speech. Nothing of that so-called "music" is healthy. It only breeds more hatred, violence, and anarchy. Gang violence is destructive and must be legally restrained. Hollywood confuses the good guy and the bad guy. They blur the lines between evil and good – right and wrong – appropriate or inappropriate behavior. The bad guy is glorified and seen as the good guy (*Is. 5:20-23 "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil"*). We have become numb and desensitized to violence, gore, and murder. Our children mistakenly take on the persona of the bad guy and wreak havoc. When your sons pick a team to identify with, which side do they choose? The good side or the evil side? Who wins in the end? Parents should be concerned if their son runs over his sister's Barbie with a plastic tank. Probably not the kind of behavior we should allow to continue. Maybe we should also rethink the cartoons that we allow our children to watch, especially if we notice violent and aggressive behavior (reaction to Ninja Turtles cartoon). Children emulate what they see on the screen. Be careful what type of movies or games you allow in your home or set before your boy's eyes. Our sons should never pretend to be the perpetrator of evil. They must be taught to defend what is absolutely right with objective good, and be set against anything evil – real or imaginative.

Don't let the wrong use of violence, war, and weapons change your view of the good godly trait of men needing to learn to protect women, children, and the innocent - with courage, justice, and righteousness. The weapon is not what is good or bad. It is just a tool. It is always the person behind it. We need to teach our boys the honorable, healthy, and correct use of weapons and self-defense (*Lk. 22:36 "buy a sword"*). Separate reality from fantasy/the imagination. Appropriate gun safety should apply whether the gun is fake or real. Teach your boys to assume every gun is loaded and treat it appropriately. "Carelessness with toy weapons breeds carelessness with the real thing." Be a fanatic to teach your

children appropriate weapon safety rules. You should never point a gun anywhere you don't intend to shoot. Kids should NOT be allowed to casually point any play weapon at a playmate's face just to say "bang you're dead." This breeds a flippant and unhealthy view of human life. Visitors to your home, moms, and sisters are civilians and non-combatants. Douglas Wilson said, if a child mistreats a noncombatant, he should be "hauled off to the bedroom and be punished for war crimes" (Future Men, p.131). If there is any violation of weaponry, confiscated items are removed from the battlefield until boys can demonstrate proper use and healthy play.

We didn't allow our boys to pretend to "kill" a real person. The enemy was always imaginative. Even with computer gaming, we asked the boys not to use terminology that said they "killed" or "murdered" someone. We asked our boys not to choose certain weapons that were too realistic or inhumane in close combat (no attacking with a knife). Some computer games seem to enhance bloody violence on the screen. We felt this was inappropriate and should never be seen as something "fun". To have to take the life of another human being in self-defense should never be taken lightly or done laughing. Take your teenagers to play paintball and they will come to understand the true reality that if they were to get shot in the face in combat, they don't just re-spawn at another location like a cat with nine lives – nope, they are either seriously injured, or they are dead. This kind of a wake-up call brings realism to our unrealistic gaming industry. War is horrific and bloody (Ukraine). Men actually die or are injured for life (*Matt. 26:52 "All who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."*). Freedom is never free and costs the lives of precious individuals. For a nation to be truly safe and secure, freedom comes with a price tag. Thank the Lord for the men in our military and our police force who risk their lives daily so we can enjoy freedom in America (*Rom. 13:1-7*). May we never take our freedom for granted. The freedom we enjoy was neither won, nor is kept secure, without the careful control and application of just force. When Jesus returns, good will win over evil one day. Our confidence is in God, not ourselves or our weapons and our conscience and moral compass of right and wrong must be shaped by His Word. Courage and kindness can go hand in hand. Our boys must learn these things. They are our future protectors & defenders.

#2 But The Back Door Is Wide Open:

We may be really good about protecting the front door, but how are we doing with the back door? Is it wide open by what we allow into our home through exposure to worldly media and bad friendships? We will drive our kids places to make sure they are safe, yet we seem oblivious to what is happening in the back seat of our vehicle, or when we are not around while they are at school, with friends, or when they are privately on their smart phone in their room with the door closed (which they are on 24/7). Here are some examples of how husbands and fathers must protect their family from subtle destructive influences.

We Must Protect Our Wife!

Where was Adam when Eve needed him? He sure wasn't leading or protecting.

Genesis 2 "suitable helper" "brought her to the man" (care/nurture/lead)

Genesis 3 "(Satan) bypassed man/spoke to (deceived) the woman." (2 Cor. 11:3)

*Genesis 3:6 "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took... and ate **and she gave also to her husband WITH HER...** and he ate." (what happened Adam, in the moment your wife needed you?)*

1 Timothy 2:14 "It was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." (Adam sinned with knowledge, and is held more responsible)

Where were the men of Israel when their wives reverted back to idolatry?

Jeremiah 44:15 (Israel retreats to Egypt and returns to idolatry beginning with the women and the men follow in their destruction.) "Then all the men who were aware that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods..." "Was it without our husbands that we made... sacrificial cakes..." (Where were the men?)

The Bible says...

1 Peter 3:7 "Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way as with someone weaker, since she is a woman, and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life..." (the weak need the strong)

Ephesians 5:27,29,33 Husbands are to present to Christ their wife without spot or wrinkle, to love, nourish and cherish her.

- *Husbands, the greatest gift and expression of love is that you fervently love and protect your wife. That is the greatest sign to your kids of your marital faithfulness, and it will bring stability to your home.*
- *Women have a deep desire to be protected and led by a man who is strong enough. His strength may not necessarily be physical or brute force, but his strong character gives her great confidence and comfort she is safe and secure.*
- *A young man is not ready for marriage unless he knows he has sufficient horsepower to pull that load of responsibility.*
- *Husbands, we must protect our wives from worldly influences which prey on how women think or feel. False ideas of beauty, or worth, or success. We must protect them from those who might take advantage of them (2 Cor. 2:11; 11:20; Jude 16 "flattering for the sake of gaining an advantage") or deceive them (Eve Gen. 3) into thinking or doing things contrary to the Word of God. We are their buffer against destructive ideas raised up against the knowledge of God. We must protect them from others that may misuse them, take advantage of them, or steal their time or sap their energy. Men, we are the gatekeepers!*

We Must Protect Our Children!

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

Psalms 101:2-4 "I will be careful to lead a blameless life... I will walk within my

house with a blameless heart. I will set nothing wicked (worthless/vile) before my eyes... I will not know wickedness."

- ***The Father is responsible for protecting his children's moral purity***

We need to warn our children of immoral friendships which might draw our sons or daughters into promiscuous sexual relationships. We need to be vigilant as to who our children date or are spending time with alone. Never assume all is good. Dads, we are the gatekeepers for who our sons or daughters date or flirt with on social media. Don't let your children go out the door of your house until you know their date's intent and have confidence that sexual purity is of most importance to them. Can you trust them with your precious son or daughter? If you can't, then don't let it happen. What would cause you doubt? How do they act or dress? What is their attitude? How do they drive? What comes out of their mouths which might be an indication where their heart is at? What safeguards are in place to guard their sexual purity? What your teen wears sets the tone for the rest of the evening. I have seen what gals have chosen to wear going to the prom and my first thought is, 'Where was your father?' Teach your daughter to say when she gets asked out, "Thank you for asking me out, but I am under the protection of my father, and any guy I date needs to ask my father's permission first." A story was told of a young man who asked to date a father's daughter, and when he arrived, the dad took the boy out in the garage to show him his gun collection. He showed him all his other "babies" and clearly communicated to this young man how important it was for him to take care of his prized possession. The young man got the picture and was put on notice. Don't mess with daddy's little girl. In the movie *"Despicable Me"*, Gru asked his oldest daughter who she was texting. She responded, "O just a friend... does it matter...?" Gru said, "No, it doesn't matter... **UNLESS IT IS A BOY!**"

Wives and daughters can be drawn into steamy romance novels or chick flicks which present sex as a casual expression of love given without consequence. Our daughters are emotionally vulnerable on social media where they pour out their souls to anyone who will listen. Emotional promiscuity cannot be a part of a believing teenager's life and digital world. Dads, how are you guarding your boys from unacceptable seductive young women in person or on the screen? Porn is the #1 disqualifier of men in the church. Supposedly there are 81 million daily visits with 50,000 searches a minute. Google's mobile search sites, say that 1 in 5 searches are for pornography. The Barna Group conducted a survey in 2014 and in 2016 in the US and found 63% of men ages 18-30 viewed porn several times a week & 21% of women from the same category view porn weekly. Dads, are you keeping your boys (and sadly even girls) from the web of destruction? How are you protecting your boys from becoming gaming zombies or from becoming addicted to their smartphone? How are you keeping your wife and children from becoming addicted to social media? Dads, how are you protecting your daughters from

aggressive lustful young men who have one thing in mind – and it isn't sexual purity? Men, we are the gatekeepers.

Ephesians 5:3 says, "But immorality or any impurity... must not be named among you as is proper among the saints."

Romans 13:14 says we should, "Make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."

1 Peter 2:11 urges us to "abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."

Titus 2:12 instructs us (as parents) to "deny (or say NO! to) ungodliness and worldly desires, and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age."

Deuteronomy 22:15-21 The father is responsible for presenting his daughter as a pure virgin in marriage. He is responsible for his daughter's sexual purity (virginity) and future welfare. (Ex. 22:16,17 right of refusal)

Solomon warned his son...

Proverbs 5:1,3-9 "My son, give attention to my wisdom... for the lips of an adulteress drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech, but in the end she is bitter...her ways are unstable... keep your way far from her and do not go near the door of her house."

Proverbs 6:20,23-33 "My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother... reproofs for discipline are the way of life, to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. Do not desire her beauty in your heart nor let her capture you with her eyelids.... Whoever touches her will not go unpunished... the one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense... wounds and disgrace he will find and his reproach will not be blotted out."

Proverbs 7:1,3,5-27 "My son... keep my commandments and live... write them on the tablet of your heart... that they may keep you from an adulteress... who flatters with her words... dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. She is boisterous and rebellious...with her many persuasions she entices him; with her flattering lips she seduces him. So he does not know that it will cost him his life... Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths..."

- **The Father is responsible to protect his children from bad commitments.**

Leviticus 22:13 A daughter is under her father's authority & protection and Her father protects her from rash vows. (Num. 30:3-5,16; Gen. 38:11)

- **The Father is responsible to protect his children from bad friendships.**

H. C. Trumbull said, "It is doubly important that a parent be alive to the importance of guiding his every child in the choice of his companions and in his relations to those companions whom he has without choosing." "Because a child's

companions are so influential, it is the more important that they be closely watched and carefully guided by the child's parents." "The responsibility is upon the parent to see to it that the best available companionships are cultivated and the most undesirable ones are shunned. Neglect or carelessness at this point may be a means of harm to the child for his lifetime. It is the parent's duty to know who are his child's companions, and to know their character, and course of conduct, and their influence upon his child, of every one of those companions separately." "[The responsibility has been passed to] the parent to see to it... that his child's influence over his very playmates is for their good, while his good is promoted by their association with him."

An old saying goes, "A person is known by the company he keeps." We become like those we spend time with. Do you know who your child hangs around? It is a fact that young people are more prone to follow a bad example than they are to set a good example.

Proverbs 12:26 "A righteous man is cautious in friendships."

Proverbs 13:20 "He who walks with the wise grows wise..."

Psalms 14:5 "God is present in the company of the righteous."

Proverbs 13:30 "The companion of fools will suffer harm."

1 Corinthians 5:11 "Do not associate with anyone who calls himself a 'brother' (Christian) and yet leads an immoral life."

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived. Bad company corrupts good character. Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning."

- ***The Father is responsible for helping his children find God-fearing mates.***

*Fathers must play an active role in the process of finding and evaluating potential suitors for their daughters and potential mates for their sons. We must train our children not to settle for less than God-honoring, Christ-exalting, Bible-believing mates. Dads, we must get this one right. **Why does the father give the daughter away in the marriage ceremony? Fathers, you are the gatekeepers.***

Jeremiah 29:6 "Take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage."

Deuteronomy 7:3,4 "You shall not intermarry with them, you shall not give your daughters to their sons nor shall you take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your sons away from following Me..."

(Ezra 9:12; Neh. 10:30; 13:25; Jud. 3:6,7; 12:9)

Men, there is so many areas we need to step up and protect our families – how we choose to spend our time and money, what we allow into our home in the form of music, entertainment, magazines, movies, and internet. How we teach our family to honor authority, how we train for a good work ethic and fight against laziness, and every other vice known to man. I am the protector. I am the gatekeeper. I am the one who must model righteousness, godliness, and reflect Christ. I must protect the innocence of my kids. I must protect my wife and children from the prevailing evil influence of this godless

culture and teach Biblical convictions, prudence, and discernment. One's attitudes and desires are shaped with what enters the mind and directly affects the will. What comes into our ears and eyes goes directly to our heart and mind. I, as their husband and father, am responsible for what my family becomes.

May God give us as men, strength and courage to protect those we love the most. Only then seeking Christ, can we truly understand real manhood and what it means to be strong and courageous. Anything else is a false substitute.