

Spiritual Leaders
Ephesians Part 36

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother
and be united to his wife
and the two will become one flesh.”*

Ephesians 5:31

Men are spiritual leaders. From the beginning of time the Lord put it in a man to leave his family, find a wife and create a new family environment, led by him. The man is the initiator of this family that he oversees. He is also the one responsible for the happiness of his wife and the welfare of his children. And what a challenge we face in our society today.

I have talked to many men who do not feel respected. Many of the TV shows and other media depict the man as irresponsible with caveman-like qualities. Not only that, but it is hard to lead today. We face the challenges our school systems create with liberal thinking such as sex before marriage and how one man and one woman is archaic. Then there are the drug and alcohol issues, gang issues, music with foul language and plenty of peer pressure. Is the answer Christian school? Well, it can help, but the answer is dad. Having a father who is an example speaks louder than any other source in a child's life. Of course mom is right up there, but dads are the head of the home as Christ is the head of the church. Scripture says that Christ suffered leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21). Suffered? That's the example?

Why did Jesus suffer? I believe there in one main reason. Yes, people mocked him and put down his way of thinking. But more than that; Jesus was not self-centered. He followed the Father's will. One of the things I find very difficult doing as a father, husband and pastor is living a life free of selfishness. Putting others first, holding back anger, speaking the truth in love, working hard, being responsible with my time and our family finances are just a few areas of the selfless life. I don't want to live in a house where everyone is thinking about their own best interests. Jesus came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mt 20:28). The man is to lead in this selfless life of service and is responsible to teach his children how to do the same. It is hard and putting down self hurts. We will suffer doing so. But the reward is great!

As men, lets take up the challenge to throw off the old man which is being corrupted by its selfish nature and put on the new man created to be like Christ Jesus. Examine your life and watch when you say the words, "It's not fair." Look at where you tend to have a pity party. What started it? What fuels your anger? Why do you quit and not persevere. Perseverance is a good indicator that you are winning the battle.

Paul said that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character and character, hope (Romans 5:3-4). Peter said that if you suffer for doing good and endure it you are commendable before God (I Peter 2:20). Let's not worry about our lives. Let's be concerned about the lives of our wife and children and the other people around us. "Endure hardship like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (Timothy 1:3).