

1. Fathers Need The Love of Jesus

June 3, 2013

This is the first of several e-mails I'm sending to fathers of all ages as Father's Day approaches. I write this to men with a sense of desperation. If you watch the news or any other media, then you've sadly observed the escalating downfall of the influence men should be having in this nation. In all too many public arenas men have been so belittled that we're about as important to families and to the culture at large as a pet iguana. While your own family may still be intact, do you realize the extent to which divorced and dysfunctional families are impacting our moral and societal values nationally?

Would you have ever thought that in your lifetime the homosexual agenda would dominate the news as such a chief issue? Don't think that the President, Congress or even the Supreme Court are governing by the Constitution as the Founding Fathers intended. Instead, the Jezebel demonic principality which subdues men into passive submission and agitates women to step in and take charge is at the helm. Within the past 2 decades the media have intentionally promoted shows and movies which exalt women as leaders and reduce men to adolescent imbeciles. And, in my opinion, we deserve it! We got castrated by this Jezebellic principality and didn't even care enough to stand up and be counted as men!

We cited recently that 24.7 million children are being raised in this land without their biological fathers. And in over 40% of families with children under 18, the mother is now the primary breadwinner. Men, especially you older fathers, you're well aware that we've forsaken our place which God intended for us in family and society. Into that void has stepped *humanism* within public education and the public domain at large. It has essentially removed the Judeo-Christian heritage which was the guiding influence in our government. Now we have: *feminism* which has prompted women to criticize men at all levels and scoop up corporate opportunities in place of marriage and/or children; widespread single-parenting, especially among women who often have little time, inclination or energy to raise their children with biblical values; and the commonly accepted cycle of multiple divorces and cohabitation which have led to insecure, apprehensive and directionless children.

It's rare today to see children of any age turning to their parents for wisdom and counsel. The kids are being trained to isolate themselves with their techno gadgets and depend solely on their peers or even the pseudo-relationships of Facebook "friends." Husbands and fathers are no longer the primary influence in families. Again, even if your family is in "intact," it's becoming increasingly difficult for you to shield your children and/or grandchildren from the influence of this God-less, Jezebellic society.

Sue and I have written on several occasions about the domination of the Jezebellic spirit over this nation. But all is not yet lost! Between now and Father's Day I'll be writing several e-mails which will lay a foundation for you men to individually and collec-

tively weigh and discuss so you can make pursue a Christ-like way of life for you and your family. Men don't to have to remain the silent, compliant eunuchs which the dominating Jezebellic demonic entity would have them be. We can regain our God-given position of protection and provision and spiritual leadership in our families and topple the influence of Jezebel. But this will take humble and prayerful submission to our Father's will and design, and an intentional heart that is willing to follow through in holy boldness out of love for our wives, children and grandchildren.

Why has this manipulative and controlling principality found such free rein in this nation, especially among Christian men? The most notable reasons I've observed in my 36 years of serving our Lord have been the **organized Christian religious system** and the proliferation of **unloving fathers who lack the humility of Jesus**. Religious systems lull into spiritual dullness complacent, pew-sitting men who see the total enactment of their faith as attending a weekly service. And because religion is a managed system, when societal problems such as abortion or substance abuse or even invisible fathers arise, programs are set up to address the issue. So many ministries to men, such as Promise Keepers for example, take a programmatic approach which deals with issues and concerns but lacks the deep, accountable personal relationships Jesus would foster among men. Nor do these programs cultivate the depth of humility men need in order to be loving servants who carry out their God-given responsibilities in their marriages and families.

I have no intent of starting another program through these next e-mails. Rather I purpose to help you men be personally accountable for your way of life in following our Father's will for you and those for whom you're responsible so that you might be welcomed into heaven (Matthew 7:21). Several decades ago a noted prophet was given a vision from God which revealed a large number of people in the inner courts of heaven. If I remember correctly there weren't many men there, but a multitude of women. At that time other men read and prayed through that prophetic vision with me; we all determined that we would pursue a life of ever-increasing Christ-likeness so that we too would be welcomed into the inner courts of heaven. (I was actually frightened by how few men there were before God in that vision.)

***"This is love: not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."***

(1John 4:10);

***"This is love for God: to obey His commands.
And His commands are not burdensome"***

(1John 5:3);

***"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands.
As you have heard from the beginning,
His command is that you walk in love."***

(2John 1:6).

Before our heavenly Father took Sue and me to Israel in 1993 to give us the Hebraic foundations, for nearly eleven years I had served wholeheartedly as a counselor to leaders within the religious establishment. But during our months in Israel He revealed to Sue and me that He does not work through religious hierarchy. The tendency of leaders within a hierarchical religious system is to produce programs which keep people attending there and to exercise control over rituals and/or creeds. But our own perspective was changed as our Father revealed that through the Spirit of our Lord Jesus in His children, He moves in the heart of each individual who *loves Him* as His Word calls for. And out of that love for Him, obedience to His commands follows as an *out-flow* of authentic trust and gratitude. So I'm hoping that the Spirit will use this series of instructive e-mails to reach your heart until you're the most loving and genuine representative of Jesus Christ to your wife and/or family that you can be.

You probably noticed in the above verses the repeated emphasis on *“this is love.”* The love that's spoken about here is *agape*, the sacrificial love which only the Spirit of our Lord can give you. This kind of love flows from His Spirit through your spirit, and then controls and influences your attitudes and behaviors so they increasingly become more like those of our Lord Jesus. You can never achieve or enact agape love without continually crying out to Jesus in humility. You need to ask Him to fill you with His love for your heavenly Father, and for your wife and children—even for those who may currently despise you. Over these past 36 years of following Jesus I can count on less than 10 fingers the number of men I've met who exemplify the sacrificial love which only the Spirit of Jesus produces. I think I've encountered so few because Christian men don't spend nearly enough time on their knees asking Him for His love. They talk too much, they read too much, they get distracted too much—and they cry out too little...

The demonic spirit of Jezebel has already infiltrated so many homes and faith communities. Wherever a woman has been let down and emotionally hurt by the lack of protection by her father and/or her husband, the Jezebellic entity has sunk tentacles into her. When a man fails to protect his wife or daughter(s) with a loving and obedient heart, they feel unloved. As a result they will resort to control, manipulation and pouting to get their way, not realizing how Jezebel is manipulating and deceiving them into taking charge in their own strength. These desperate women may be described this way: *“Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up: **an unloved woman who is married**”* (Proverbs 30:21,23). In whatever situation or relationship a man has ongoing apprehension about a woman, whether his wife or not, the Jezebel influence is there.

So many fathers have no idea how important their authentic praise and intentional encouragement and guidance are especially to their daughter(s). When fathers are absent, disinterested, or unprotective of their daughter(s), she'll resort to fornication to gain acceptance even if in just a brief encounter of what's today called "hooking up." That's the easiest way to gain control over men, and has lost any social stigma. In fact, keeping pure until marriage, whether for a guy or a gal, has become the subject of pub-

lic mockery today.

With the rise of divorce, many more girls are being raised by single mothers. Few girls have access to healthy relationships with older males like uncles or grandfathers (whether biological or unrelated but filling the role) who could give her a sense of self-worth and value. And the sad consequence is that when girls who have had sex with multiple partners do get married, they're often unable to experience the loving intimacy God ordained for intercourse with a husband. Only the Spirit of Jesus can heal these women—but their husbands must be changed by Him as well. That's how the pattern of pain and shame can be broken, and the loving power of Jesus to heal and to cause both to press on ahead together can take place. If their husbands don't humble themselves and call upon our Lord for His love for them, they and their daughter(s) will never experience how truly precious they are.

Women, however, aren't alone in their vulnerability to being influenced by the Jezebel entity. Those demonic talons have been embedded in men too who've been raised without fathers, or have experienced abuse in relationship with their father or other men in positions of trust, or when they have unresolved attitudes against their earthly fathers. Symptoms which may indicate what's going on inside these men are a sense that they're smarter than others or are above accountability to anyone. In reality, they are imprisoned behind a facade of unforgiveness from the heart. They may say they hold nothing against their father or any other man who has wounded them; but inside they're chewing on the bile of pride which refuses to appropriate the Spirit's grace and power to forgive. And sadly, clinging to that pride brings about God's opposition and refusal to forgive them (see Matthew 6:15; James 4:6).

So many men within western Christendom are filled with Bible knowledge alone but have undergone no change into Christ-like character. The obsession of seminaries on education only encourages this unbiblical pursuit. Jezebel has been able to influence men like this because *"in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin"* (Psalms 36:2). Without the willingness to humble himself before Jesus, forsake the memories of his past pain, and receive and extend the love of Christ to others, a man can spout a multitude of Bible verses yet fail to manifest the love that evidences His presence in them. (1 Corinthians 13 serves as a warning to those who may look and act as though Jesus is Lord of their being but in reality have no self-denying, forgiving love in their heart.)

A husband's agape love can be seen in his wife's face.

If your wife doesn't look at you with a bright and appreciative smile every so often, then you most likely lack the humility to love her with the empowered love of Jesus. It's His love through you that lights up her face. Commit this maxim to heart, and then look at your wife's face to see where you stand with her:

**A wife's face is either a public compliment
or a public rebuke for her husband.**

Don't give up if your wife's face is a public rebuke to you; there's still hope. But change requires time on your knees, not to satisfy your own wants but to be the loving representative of Jesus to your bride: *"Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor"* (Proverbs 18:12). Set aside for the time being your Bible knowledge which you've so often tossed around in conversation, or anything else that has to do with your outward religious expression. **YOU NEED JESUS—HIS HUMILITY AND HIS LOVE!** Only His Spirit can give this to you, IF you're humble enough to seek and receive it.

Consider these key recommendations:

- If you're a father of a grown daughter who has fornicated, you need to ask her forgiveness for your failure to protect her. This applies even if you were divorced when she was growing up. She needs to know that the poor decisions she made came about at least in part because you weren't the loving and obedient dad she needed.
- If you fornicated with your wife prior to your marriage, you need to first ask her forgiveness for your disobedience to God and violation of her, and also her father's forgiveness for having breached his authority. It doesn't matter if he's following Jesus or not; you transgressed and need to confess before him and ask him to forgive you.
- If you're a daughter or son who fornicated, ask your father for forgiveness. Even if he failed you as a dad, you willfully sinned against him and need the cleansing that comes from asking forgiveness.
- If you're married and have previously fornicated or committed adultery, you need to renounce in the Name of Jesus the "soul ties" you have with each person by name (see 1Corinthians 6:18). If you don't, sexually impure spirits will continue to hinder the love and intimacy the Spirit of Jesus would give you in your marriage. (You may do this privately between you and your heavenly Father if you wish.)

Finally men, if you have a friend, son, or father who is following Jesus as Lord of his life, start encouraging each other to spend more time on your knees asking Jesus to instill His love in each of you. And don't be reluctant to pray together with these men on your knees. It can be both a humbling and bonding experience. Remember, walking in the love of Jesus is a lifelong endeavor of intentional pursuit and follow through. Be sure to safeguard yourself as Paul warns the followers of Jesus in Corinth (1Corinthians 16:13). Don't befriend other "Christian" men who aren't pursuing a life of love-grounded obedience to Jesus. They will seduce you through their compromise of God's Word with worldly ways back into the arms of Jezebel! (See 2Peter 3:17.)

I'm writing to you as a brother in Christ and a man who wants to help but knows the window to do this is short.

Mike