

Intro: Sometimes the Introduction of a book is the most important part.

- About the Author: His perspective... "Where he is coming from"
- Definition of Terms: When I use the word: "God" this is what I mean! (Force, Inner Sense, Judge, Jesus)
- Goal: When you are finished...THIS is what I want you to KNOW/BE/UNDERSTAND/DO

As we move to a new section of the Sermon Series on "Living Up In A Down World", I want to do that for you: PREFACE

Remember where we are in our Series: *Living UP in A DOWN World!* We don't Fit! 1 Peter 1:1-3

Aliens and Strangers: ExPats: Living here, but our true citizenship is in heaven.

If we are going to be successful, we must get our priorities in order...live according to word of God, and NOT the culture

Peter has given us our GOAL: Live such good lives! 1Peter 2:11 Pg 858

He then tells us HOW in every area of life: Work, Government, Church, (we added OTHER)

Today he talks about "Family" Specifically (Fathers Day)I want to talk with you about Fathers/Husbands MY "Preface"

- Author: "When I told my Father, "Im going to Bible College to prepare for ministry" NEVER A MAN
- Goal: I want to share my passion for you in this area...so you can be what God intended
- Definition of Terms: Where we Begin!

1. A MAN/FATHER/HUSBAND IS A CREATED SPIRITUAL BEING THAT HAS A BODY AND EXPRESSES HIMSELF THROUGH WILL, INTELLECT AND EMOTION.

Now, you would THINK that you would not have to go this basic, but all you have to do is turn on the news and you will discover that THIS is exactly what we have to do! Why? Culture so out of touch w/Creator made them totally "wack"

We live in an upside down world! But, listen...we SHOULDN'T be upset or confused by that! Peter told us that was the case. We are aliens and foreigners. This world is NOT our home! We are different from the world around us. And we SHOULD be We can never blame non-christian people for acting like non-christians. That is who they are God LOVES them unconditionally...and we need to love them as well! Actually, sometimes the craziness of our culture HELPS us!

ILLUS: Funeral: Someone I didn't know...Graveside only, Last minute...

Explain the Definition, and ... (DRAW on whiteboard, show on screen)

- Body Genesis 2:4 (formed from dust of ground)
- Expresses Himself/Herself through: Gen 1:27: In our Image: Will; Intellect; Emotion
- Created Spiritual Being Genesis 2:7 (breathed into him breath of life, became a living being)

Despite what you might hear on the radio, see on TV, or think in your own mind, God, the creator, is the "definer!!!"

2. THERE ARE THREE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT FATHERHOOD.

Because we live in this crazy upside down world, what sometimes happens to us is we let the world around us, the culture in which we live influence us, RATHER than allowing God, through His word, to inform our understanding.

- Each of the three areas AFFECTS the others. Don't believe that?
~Husband/Wife: Emotional fight, Physical Affection
~1 Peter 3:2 Man's spiritual life can be influenced by the behavior of his wife (will, intellect, emotion)
~1 Peter 3:7 Your relationship with your wife affects your prayers!
- We OFTEN value the wrong areas! Paul's corrections in 1Peter 3:1-7
~3:3-4 Beauty and outer adornment (One looking, the other making that the key!)
The thing that drew me to my wife...was when I met her...that verse came to mind
- The SPIRITUAL dimension is the MOST important!
~3:1-2 So That Why is submission important? Because it's the best chance you have of winning to Jesus
~3:7 Why considerate? Respectful: Because if you don't...God says, "I cant HEAR you!"
~Eph 5:23 Husbands: The way you treat your wife is a reflection of how Jesus treats the church!
~Eph 5:24 Wives: The way you respond to your husband is reflection of how Church does Jesus!

1Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives" How you do that in EVERY arena is essential...and This one is critical!

3. THREE CRITICAL PRIORITIES EVERY MAN MUST GET RIGHT.

- Surrender yourself to Christ Spiritually:

ILLUS: Airplane Oxygen Mask: You have to get this right FIRST:

You can't Lead and Love and Provide and Care for her the way you should WITHOUT His help!!!

You can't BE the Father you need to be...without being the man of God you were created to be FIRST!

Illus: Let me give you a formula for personal, family, and parenting disaster: PUT YOUR KIDS FIRST!

Before your own personal spiritual walk, before your wife's needs, before anything else!

**You teach them that they are the most important thing in the world. That everything revolves around them
That all of life is about what they want, and what they think and what makes them happy.**

FIRST YOU HAVE TO GET YOU RIGHT!

>You cannot say: GO...Must say FOLLOW ME! You CANNOT LEAD with words...Lead with ACTIONS!

~Accept Christ as savior:You can't BE what you are supposed to be alone

~Follow Him in daily obedience. (Be baptized, Worship, Give, Serve, Grow, Pray, Read Bible, SHOW THEM HOW)

- Lead Your Wife to Christ Spiritually

There is an awful lot of confusion about this area:

Eph 5:23: "Husband is Head of the Wife as Christ is the head of Church"

Sometimes I will have a man say to me: "I'm the leader, she is to submit" I'm the leader the bible says so.

I tell them every time: That is Absolutely TRUE. (Then I say two things)

1. You worry about your part. Leading and Loving: Let her worry about hers

2. Understand what it means to Lead and to Love Spiritually like Jesus

Q: When Did Jesus Last Step into your life and say: I'm The Leader...YOU MUST.....

When does he MAKE you obey? When: Force you to do something...When: Give you No option?

Leading and Loving Looks like Being the way Jesus was with the Church!!!

>Love her like Jesus does church Eph 5:25

>Give yourself up for her! Eph 5:26

>Lay your life down for her! That's what Jesus did

>Not my will but thine be done Matt 26:39 Seek HER Will!

>Son does nothing on his own John 5:19 Do nothing w/o her

>Son only does what the Father says John 8:28 Seek to fulfill her desires

>Son seeks to glorify Father John 17:1 Seek to lift her up at all times

- Train/Teach Your Children Spiritually

**Col 3:21 "Do not embitter your children" Lit = to provoke or excite or stimulate in a bad direction
Don't nag them habitually and frustrate them!**

Instead

Deut 6:6-7 Teach them to your children, Walk, sit, rise up and lay down...

I want you to notice something here:

The things that our world values the most...don't even make the list!

The things that WE tend to value the most...aren't even referenced...

WHY?? BECAUSE SOME THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS!

They are not all Equal...And the Single BEST thing you can do for your Wife and your Children

Is BE the man...the husband...the Father...God created you to be...And

It is never too late

You CAN do it...with God's help

CONCL

Are you Surrendering yourself: Know Jesus? Baptized? Growing? Studying?

Are you Leading and Loving Your wife? IF need to make changes

**Are you Teaching Children? Can't "outsource" that to Church, Youth group, Wife,
YOU must do these things**

If there are changes you need to make...Come make them...right now?

If you have had it wrong...best place your wife and your kids can find you is on your knees!