

Some Things I Sought to Teach My Sons
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Introduction: As Parents we are given the responsibility to teach our children.

- A. Fathers have a great responsibility *to mold their sons*. **(Eph 6:4)**
 - 1. When *both parents serve God*, that teaching is re-enforced. **(Prov 1:8-10)**
 - 2. This is one of the greatest gifts God can give us. This will only come if we have *a genuine faith*. Illusions will not get the job done. **(2 Tim 1:5)**
- B. Our society *truly despises men and the role God has given them*.
 - 1. Men are pushed to *become effeminate and passive*.
 - 2. Women are taught to become aggressive and abandon the home and married life.
 - 3. We must be humble and daily *ask God for help*. **(Judges 13:7-8)**

I. Work is Honorable

- A. We live in a society that places more value on "what can I get" than of a strong character who seeks to be *a dependable and hard-working provider*.
- B. God expects every man *to be the breadwinner* for his home. **(Gen 2:24; Eph 4:28)**
 - 1. The idea here is to provide not only for self, but for others. Some men *must mature before marriage!*
 - 2. A good man is unselfish with *the fruits of his labor*. **(1 Tim 5:8; 2 Thess 3:10)**
- C. I want my sons to *give their best* on any job they take. **(Ecc 9:10)**
 - 1. An hourly wage is a promise. Will I keep my end? **(Eph 6:6-7)**
 - 2. What *kind of man was God's son*, Jesus Christ? **(Mark 6:1-3)**
 - 3. Imagine meeting Jesus during this period of His life.

II. Service to the Lord Must be First in Their Lives

- A. While work is important, *it is not first*. **(Matt 6:33)**
 - 1. It is not second, his family is.
 - 2. This kind of man is far more important to his company than the worldly.
- B. I want my sons to overcome their timidity and *have an understanding with their employer*. **(2 Tim 1:6-7)**
 - 1. Tell the boss: "I am a Christian and I must be at worship." Gain a promise from him and hold him to it. *Do not back down!*
 - 2. This decision must be *made in the heart*. **(Matt 6:24-27)**
 - 3. It is difficult for a man to hold this commitment.
 - 4. This commitment *must begin in school* and continue in work. He will not get some jobs because of this. (Ex. 7th Day Adventist)
- C. Putting the Lord first means *learning self-control*. **(Rom 13:11-14)**
 - 1. My sons must make it through the teenage years and not be overcome by the "good old boys" who *want to get high for fun*.
 - 2. My sons must learn self-control and turn from outbursts of wrath.

III. God has given the Man the Responsibility of Headship

- A. This is a great responsibility. **(Eph 5:22-23)**
 - 1. This means *I must do things that I do not want to.*
 - 2. This means that *I put others first.* **(Matt 20:28)**
- B. What does true headship involve?
 - 1. An *acceptance of responsibility.* (Not indecisive, vacillating but firm)
 - a. Too many men let their wives lead by doing nothing.
 - b. It is unimaginable to me for a man to bring children into the world and not be a Christian. This will bring problems for your children.
 - 2. An *unselfishness that is motivated by love.* **(Eph 5:25)**
 - a. True leadership finds fulfillment in providing what is good for the family. (Ex. Our new dog, kittens and responsibility.)
 - b. Here is where the wise man will listen and learn. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
 - 3. *Leadership in the ways of God.* **(1 Tim 2:11-12; Phil 2:19-24)**
 - a. Real leadership involves service that others run from. I would love to know my sons would be a Timothy.
 - b. Real leadership involves standing for what is right even when you must stand alone. Too many churches have cowardly men.
 - 4. *Discerning good and evil.* **(Heb 5:11-14)**

IV. The Value of Kindness, Courtesy and Gratitude

- A. In short, I want my sons *to be gentleman.*
 - 1. They may not know the books of etiquette, but they *must know God's book.*
 - 2. This is a quality of Character that *puts others ahead of themselves.*
- B. What are the marks of a great man? **(Matt 7:12; Phil 2:3-4)**

V. To be as useful as possible in the Lord's Service

- A. There is such a *need for workers in the kingdom.* **(Matt 9:37-38)**
 - 1. I want them to take their talents *as far as possible.*
 - 2. This will require faith and *a willingness to try and learn.*
 - B. At the same time I want them *to avoid pride.* **(1 Cor 8:1-2)**
 - 1. Some do things to be seen. **(Matt 6:5)**
 - 2. When men do work for the Lord, they will be blessed!
 - C. What example *are they seeing* in us as parents. **(1 Cor 11:1)**
- “The best thing parents can spend on their children is time--not money.”
- B. I want my boys to understand that *true success is found in doing the will of God.* **(Matt 7:24-27)**

Conclusion: There is a limited time to accomplish this.