

## Fatherhood Cannot Be Divorced From Morality Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

We live in a very loose and lax era. Absolutes in morality have been forsaken and relativity has taken the day in the realm of human ethics. This Satanic spirit of looseness has invaded the sacred precincts of marriage and the family. It is a mighty short step from feeling that marital mates owe no moral fidelity and permanent loyalty to each other to a total divorcement of morality from mothers and faithfulness from fathers.

Hence, it is now heard in ever increasing frequency that a woman is a good mother to her children even though she has ongoing affairs with other men on a regular basis. It is frequently affirmed of certain men that they are good fathers to their children even though they engage quite freely in adulterous affairs with one or more available women. Can a mother really compensate to her children for the divided love she practices? Will being present for all their school events and extra-curricular events really atone for her divided affections between their own Daddy and the other fleshly interests she actively maintains? Can a father really compensate to his impressionable boys by promoting their sports interests and taking them on family fishing excursions for the "Mr. Hyde and Dr. Jekyll" type man he is? Is showing an interest in their childhood interests really an atonement for the fact that he divides his love between their own mother at home and a number of women who share a life of intimacy with him while he is away from home? Will the day not soon dawn when a boy learns that his father is a "playboy" around town with other women? There is more than one way for a mother to die in a daughter's heart and for a father to die in a trusting boy's heart. Surely this must be one of the most traumatic of all days when a boy realizes that his own Daddy practices a divided love and has betrayed marital fidelity.

Have we reached such a disastrous dip in moral thinking and ethical practices that we actually believe that an adulterous wife and a marvelous mother or an adulterous and flirtatious husband and a faithful father come wrapped up in the same human personality package? They *positively* do not so come! Faithfulness as a father demand fidelity toward marital vows. Today's child lives in a world largely dominated by the new morality or situation ethics yet he knows firsthand that roving husbands do not make faithful fathers and wayward wives do not add up to mothers of marvel and majesty. The finest thing as a father you can do for your children is to love God and to love their mother and in precisely that one-two order of pressing priority.

In the penning of Ephesians 6:4 Paul did not have fornicating fathers in mind. Of that we can be dogmatically definite and absolutely adamant. *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord* (Eph. 6:4). (from *Great Chapters of the Bible*, Fifth Annual Lectureship, East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions)

## A Sermon Never to Be Forgotten

Throughout the years I have heard many wonderful sermons, most of which I have forgotten. But one sermon I saw has remained with me until this day. It happened on a Sunday morning when I was on my way to one of the two small congregations in Munich, Germany on a cold, rainy day in November.

When I got out of bed, I looked through the window that was covered with ice. New deep snow had fallen during the night, covering the streets of the city. I tried to decide whether I should go to worship or stay at home and read my Bible. I knew the congregation would miss me, for I was the only song leader they had. On the other hand, I would have to walk a half a block to catch the bus to the building. I finally decided to go, but only because I was to lead the singing. While I was riding the bus I noticed two people trying hard to make their path through the snow. I recognized the people and knew where they were going. This brother and sister was a faithful couple who attended every service.

He was a man in his 80's who had lost his eyesight. His only guidance was his 75 year old wife, who was lame in one foot. They lived in a little two-room apartment and received a little support from the government. Because they could not afford to ride the bus to the services, which were about three miles away, they walked every Lord's Day. Here I was, sitting in a warm bus, unwilling to go to worship, forced by my duty as a song leader, and there, outside in the cold weather, were two old people driven by their love for the Lord.

I was not able to do anything but blush—I was ashamed of myself and the weak faith and love I had proven for my Lord. I felt like an evil-doer in court being judged by his own conscience. This old couple, without their knowledge and without one word, taught me a greater lesson than could ever have been said in words.

(When I read the above article...I began to think of all the excuses people use for not attending the worship services of the church—opportunities to sing praises to the Father in heaven, to have fellowship with those of like precious faith, to encourage the weak and troubled, to study God's word in an effort to be a greater servant in the kingdom of God. What excuses does the Lord really accept? How much are we deceiving ourselves when we forsake such assemblies? Can we really expect the Judge of all the earth to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"? Come on! Let's be honest for a change! How much do we really love the Lord who died that we might live?) [via "The Bremen Bulletin" from Bremen, GA, editor Stan White, unknown author of article]

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..." (Hebrews 10:25).