Fighting For Your Family Series

Pt-2 “Controlling the Temperature of Your Home”

Nehemiah 4:14b / Genesis 2-3

6/15/25

Last week we began a series that called Christian parents, Christian families to stand back up and stand firm, to fight for our families in a world that seems to be falling apart. We talked about the urgent need to rebuild and re-establish the foundation of the family and how to build it...upon biblical principles

* Nehemiah 4:14b

“*Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”*

To recap last week, all of which is foundational for us to take back the family we saw that:

* We must recommit to Gods Biblical Foundation & Design of order in the Family.
* We must pray for change—starting in our own hearts.
* We must love our and respect our spouses and children intentionally.
* We must stand firm against cultural lies and protect our children from them.

**Now last week I gave you homework...**This homework is valuably important, whether your single, a married couple with or without kids, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc. The question is by engaging with the homework of reading 1 Cor. 13 each day, did you learn what love is...If you did, I pray you began to allow the Holy Spirit the opportunity to teach you what true love really is. If you have, you’re on you’re on your way to re-establishing the foundation for you family.

On this Father’s Day, we’re speaking to our Dads, the man of the family. This is a continuation in our series of messages entitled Fighting for Your Family, and Dads, we have to fight today because the enemies of the family are huge. Even more so today, more than ever, we have to fight!

Dads, whether you know it or not, you’re needed...Now I don’t need to outline for you the great consequences of fatherlessness? Somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 million children will go to bed tonight with only one parent in the home, probably the mother. There will be no father. Kids who grow up without a father are more susceptible to sexuality at early ages, drugs, gangs, and all sorts of other things that their peers are doing in school. And the problem is that the cycle is isn’t diminishing but getting worse.

Dads, you need to realize the tremendous power that you have. When you walk into a room and your children are there, remember this, families are either diminished because of your presence or they are enhanced!

There are two ways that fathers can destroy their families even if they are in the home.

* **One way is to be physically there, but emotionally disconnected, uncommunicative and passive.**
* **The other way is to be selfish, overbearing, and inconsistent in discipline, or God forbid abusive.**

Now men, I know you took a little bit of nicking last week, but we did establish that you are the one God choose to have the responsibility for your family, and as they say, to one that is given much, much is required...Today, Dads/Men, being it Father Day, I want to speak to you about the responsibility you have in “controlling the temperature in your home”.

It’s safe to say that a thermometer reacts to the temperature, where-as a thermostat gauges and adjusts the temperature.

* **Dads/Men, instead of being a thermometer that simply reacts to the existing "temperature" or mood of the home, a father should be a thermostat.** Just as a thermostat gauges the temperature of your home, we are responsible for actively gauging the emotional and spiritual atmosphere of family and homes. We are the ones responsible for taking steps to adjust it and to lead in the charge in setting a comfortable temperature for the home.

We are called to creating a Safe, Supported and Christlike Environment: A dad's role is to help create a home where family members feel safe, secure, and supported. This involves creating a positive and peaceful environment, acknowledging that even as a Christian family there will be both good and bad times, but ultimately with Christ in the lead, together they will work through issues.

Going back to last week’s scripture texts in Gen 2, we emphasized the fact that God formed the man - Genesis 2:7

* ***Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.***
* He formed him (man) first.

And then in verse 16 & 17 Adam was given the command that you may eat of the fruit of all the trees of the garden except the tree that is in the middle, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

* *16But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— 17except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”*
* Eve is not given that command. She’s not even around yet... (Gen. 2:22)

Now as mentioned last week, we know Adam told her, as he should have, because we see that as Eve answers the serpent in Genesis 3:2-3. But when THEY sin, who is it that God goes to first? Not Eve...He goes to Adam.

* *Genesis 3:9 - Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

Today I believe God is still asking that questions of our Dads and husbands...” Where Are You?

* Where is the man who should be the one who should be praying for his wife and initiating it.
* Where is the man that should be the man in the household who makes sure that the kids are being taught the Bible, giving them instruction.
* Where is the man that should be the one on Sunday morning helping his family get ready as he leads them to church.

God is searching for the man of God. A man that “controls the temperature of his home.” These qualities consist of a Dad being the following:

**A Spiritual Leader**

As can see, that right off the bat, Adam actually has the responsibility of **spiritual leadership** for his wife. It is the man whom God holds accountable. As you read through the Old Testament, you’ll discover that the man was to be the priest of the family. Ephesians 5:25 offers the principle instruction to married men.

* Ephesians 5:25

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.”*

If you want a biblical marriage, then you need to understand how “Christ” loved the church.

This love is described as a selfless, sacrificial love, where Christ laid down his life for the church, or the "bride of Christ". Since husbands are to love their wives in the same way as the Jesus loves His “Bride”, we need to know exactly what Jesus was called to do.

In the New Testament, we can see how husbands should become anointed ones. In theology, Christ occupies the classic, threefold office of prophet, priest, and king. Let’s explore Husband and Dad how this relates to you.

* **The Role of a Prophet**.

A prophet represents God to people. In the Old Testament a prophet would face the people and speak. Jesus was a prophet who spoke the Word of God to the people and was, in fact, the Word incarnate. A prophet speaks for God.

* + A husband is to be the family prophet.He represents God to his wife and children. When his wife reacts emotionally, he calms her with His wisdom. He proclaims the gospel of faith to his family. He provides biblical instruction and training to his wife and children. He prepares family devotions and encourages private devotions. He is the referee of family values. He insists on regular church attendance. He is a messenger from God to his family.
* **The Role of a Priest**.

If a prophet represents God to people, then a priest represents people to God. In the Old Testament a priest would turn his back to the people and mediate for them before God. Jesus is the High Priest who mediated between people and the Father by the sacrifice of His life. A priest mediates before God.

* + A husband is to be the family priest.He represents his wife and children to God. He spends time in prayer each day remembering the needs and concerns of his wife. He prays for the salvation of his children. Like Job, he asks the Lord to forgive the sins of his children. He sets the spiritual temperature in the home. He sacrifices his life for theirs. He is a mediator to God for his family.
* **The Role of a King**.

A king takes responsibility for the welfare of his people. He provides both justice and mercy to his people. Jesus is a king from the line of David. A king provides for and offers protection and security for his people.

* + A husband is to be the family king. He provides for the needs of his family. He works diligently to earn enough for food and shelter. He administers discipline with fairness. He quickly forgives and overlooks offenses. He acts in a manner worthy of receiving honor. He treats his wife with consideration and respect. He is careful not to be harsh with her or his children. He is a provider for his family.

Husbands are to be the anointed spiritual leaders of their homes to which will bring stability to your home.

As we embrace these humbling, yet vital roles, husbands, remember to treat your wives with gentleness and wisdom, recognizing how valuable she is to you. Know that it is God's desire for your marriage to flourish. Honor her voice in the relationship. After your devotion to God, let your spouse be your highest priority. When you live these roles out as God intended, your children will witness it, feel its impact, and grow to seek the same kind of love and partnership in their own marriages.

Unfortunately, in many homes the father washes his hands of this responsibly. He leaves it to his wife, to the Church, and he spiritually disconnects and doesn’t take his rightful place in the home. Is it any wonder that the statistics indicate that so many children growing up in the Church today eventually leave the faith, because “if God is not important to Dad, why should God be important to me?” But as we’ve seen two weeks in a row now...God squarely puts the responsibility of the leadership within the home on the father. The Church can help, but it cannot take the place of Dad in the home.

**Dads/Husbands, with Moms/Wives, the assignment this week based on scriptures that explain your roles in leading your children.**

* Deuteronomy 6:6-7

*And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.*

* Proverbs 22:6

*Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.*

* Ephesians 6:4

*Fathers do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.*

I would add the book of Proverbs to your daily study as well. Throughout that book you have a father saying, “My son, do this and this,” and what is he doing? He’s teaching his son...

* He’s teaching him to trust God with all of his heart.
* He’s teaching him about the fear of the Lord.
* He’s teaching him about financial responsibility.
* He’s teaching them about friends and not so good friends.
	+ Parents always say, “You know, he was a good kid, but he got wrapped up in the wrong people in school.” Well, where are the warnings?

Where are the safeguards within the home for which God holds you accountable? You won’t know them, if you don’t know the Word.

Now, though Dad is working and has other responsibilities, he needs to ensure his family is the 1st in all responsibilities. He has to make sure that these things are being done. But he is a partner with his wife whom he should love as he stands together with her. And she is to stand with him. **They are one**. *(Gen. 2:24: his explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.)* Dad is responsible for sets the tone or temperature for the home, and together with Mom should apply it.

**A Provider**

The fact is dad has to be a provider. (The Role of a King)

Clearly the responsibility of the man is to provide for his family, and in those days the way you did it was to work out in the field. Now we live in an entirely different environment. Very few of us may work out in the field, but nonetheless, the father still has responsibility to work.

* Genesis 3:17-19

*17 And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit, I commanded you not to eat the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. 19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.*

Now there may be at times a reversal of roles out of necessity. Welcome to today...Maybe the father can’t work or is out of work. Those situations are different. Unfortunately, in most homes today, both parents work in order to make it. But Dad, if you are capable to work, then by God’s standards you are to work, because it’s your responsibility that the needs of your family are cared for. Dad must be there for them, and instead of expecting his wife to take responsibility, he is to take that responsibility and provide for them.

**A Spiritual Gatekeeper**

“Well, where do you find that in the text?” Look at Adam again. You see, the serpent comes to get his family, to get his wife, and the reason that God holds him accountable is because it says in Genesis 3:6-7 that Eve took the fruit of the tree and gave to her husband who was with her.
I’ve often wondered to myself if the first sin was not Eve eating the fruit of the tree, but rather of Adam who stood there watching the serpent seduce his wife and doing nothing about it.

That’s why God holds him accountable. He was to be the spiritual gatekeeper. He should have stopped it!

Fathers, when there are attacks against our family, we have to stand up and be the man God has called us to be for our family! Not just the spiritual leader, but when there is something going on in the home, what you do is you become involved, and you straighten it out. You take responsibility for what is happening in your family.

There are so many attacks against our marriages, our kids, our relations between them all. There are affairs, addictions, rebellion, lying, anger, disgusting acts of violence... There are all kinds of ways in which your children are under attack today, and what you and I must do is to ask God for wisdom to be the man in the house, to be emotionally and spiritually engaged in the life of each of my family members. That’s what God is calling us to.

The enemy is interested in destroying your family. Who is he going to go for his attack? Any and all of the family...Dad, Mom, Kids, Grandmas, In-Laws, etc... Dads we have to stand and fight, in Christ, against these things that are made to deliberately destroy marriages, relations between parents and kids, other family members...Let us be spiritual gatekeeper to what we allow in our homes, our families, and our hearts.

Finally,

**We are to be the Family Thermostat.** (Role of a Priest)

At what temperature is your home going to be? There are some homes where there is just chaos, arguing, and complete madness. In some homes it seems every disagreement in the house ends up in a fight. Well, this is where you step in Dad? Where are you?

Dad your goal and responsibility is to instill into everyone in the family that we are to honor one another and respect one another. That we have to resolve conflict and love one another,” while modeling this in his own life and in his own relationship with his wife and kids.

Is your home a cold place where there is no love, peace, or true joy? Dad, you are accountable as the thermostat of the home to keep the home warm, loving, & safe.

Closing

Unfortunately, we live in a time when many men can’t seem to or choose not to assume this role for many different reasons. Maybe it’s because they’ve had some bad models to follow or no model at all, and they don’t know what that role is really like.

Another reason is because of the confusion of roles. We don’t know what we’re supposed to be.

* In our society where you have men supposedly being more like women, and women being more like men, to the destruction of the family, men don’t know what it’s like to be a man. And so, they think that being a man is to be tough and to be harsh, and they have no idea about manhood being both strong, but also sensitive and loving and caring. They don’t know what it’s like to be a man.
* Maybe we’re living with unconquered sin. If he is living with an addiction, it is going to be very difficult for him to guide his family spiritually, so he feels himself paralyzed

Men, this comes from my heart to yours. If that describes you, would you go for help? There are men here in our church that can help you. You cannot be bogged down by the condemnation of Satan and at the same time have the freedom to instruct your family spiritually and in other ways for which God holds you and me as fathers, responsible.

There is a story of a devoted father came into the room where his eight-year-old was dying of an incurable disease. The child, sensing that he was not going to get well asked his father, "Dad, am I going to die?" "Why, son, are you afraid to die?" The child looked up into the eyes of his father and replied, "Not if God is like you, Dad!"

Though this may seem like a “Mission Impossible”, there’s good news...We are not alone in this Dad thing. Remember the picture of the umbrella last week...it’s Christ, then you dad. One of the most beautiful words in the English language, I think, is the word “father.” And I love the word “dad.” What an honor. But to my point, we have a Father in heaven, that we can call, “Abba, Father,” a term of endearment. Is there anything more precious than that? That’s whom you pursue to be like. You pursue God. By pursing and knowing God, we can become the man and dad we were purposed to be.

So, **Dad’s let’s take our rightful place in our home and control the temperature in them with Christ as the foundation!**