

**Psalm 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.**

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR THE FATHER AT HOME IS TO LEAD IN HIS ROLE AS HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD. IS THERE SUCH A THING AS THE "PERFECT FATHER?" DAVID ASPIRED TO BE SO. LET'S LOOK AT GOD'S WORD AND SEE WHAT MAKES THE "PERFECT FATHER."

THE TWO WORDS FOR "PERFECT" IN OUR TEXT ARE ACTUALLY TWO DIFFERENT WORDS THAT COME FROM THE SAME ROOT. IT MEANS TO BE COMPLETE OR WHOLE. THE SENSE IS TO BE WITHOUT BLEMISH (AS IN THE CASE WHEN THIS WORD IS USED TO DESCRIBE AN ANIMAL SACRIFICE). THERE IS ANOTHER SHADE TO THIS WORD THAT REALLY APPLIES TO US AS FATHERS. **IT MEANS TO BE THE REAL THING - TO BE GENUINE.**

**THE PROBLEM AND BENEFIT  
OF THE HUMANITY OF FATHERHOOD.**

DAVID HAD SET HIS SIGHTS VERY HIGH IN THIS PSALM WHEN HE ASPIRED TO "...WALK WITHIN MY HOUSE WITH A PERFECT HEART." THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE, LIKE DAVID, ARE OF THE FLESH AND HAVE OUR WEAK MOMENTS. LIVING IN THE HOME AS A CHRISTIAN FATHER CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF WE RELY ON THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT<sup>1</sup> AND THE REALIZATION THAT THOUGH WE DESIRE TO BE THE PERFECT FATHER IN THE SENSE OF BEING RIGHT EVERY TIME, THERE ARE GOING TO BE TIMES WHEN WE MAKE MISTAKES. THERE ARE ALSO GOING TO BE PRESSURES TO SET ASIDE THE TOUGH DECISIONS FOR LATER AND NOT DEAL WITH GROWING PROBLEMS THAT OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE HOME. GOD DOESN'T EXPECT US AS HUMAN FATHERS TO BE OMNISCIENT AS HE IS AND NEVER TO MAKE MISTAKES. HE *DOES* EXPECT US TO EXERCISE ALL OF HIS MORAL ATTRIBUTES SUCH AS LONGSUFFERING, GRACIOUS, AND HAVE THE INTEGRITY MAKE HONEST, HARD DECISIONS AS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD. TO PUT OFF DEALING WITH A DIFFICULT SITUATION INVITES DISASTER FURTHER ON.

BEING "HUMAN" AS A FATHER CAN HAVE ITS BENEFITS ALSO. IF WE AS FATHERS CAN LAUGH AT OUR OWN HUMANITY. IF WE CAN LET OUR GUARD DOWN WITH OUR FAMILY MEMBERS - IT'S OK. A GOOD FATHER KNOWS THE PRECARIOUS BALANCE OF BEING VULNERABLE AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSERTING HIS GOD-GIVEN ROLE LEADERSHIP WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - THAT'S A TALL ORDER.

**A FATHER'S TESTIMONY IN THE HOME.**

**Psalm 101:3 I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.**

AS FATHERS, WE ARE UNDER THE CONSTANT SCRUTINY OF THOSE WHO KNOW US BEST. HERE IS WHERE WE MUST APPLY ALL THE WISDOM SPOKEN OF IN GOD'S WORD (ESPECIALLY THE BOOK OF PROVERBS). NOTE FIRST, THE LOOK. THE LOOK IS BY EXTENSION OUR PRIORITIES. WHAT TURNS OUR INTEREST. "VILE" HERE IS THAT WHICH IS WORTHLESS, BASICALLY OF NO USE. THE TERM "SONS OF BELIAL" IS CONNECTED WITH THIS WORD. THERE IS A SENSE OF REPLACING THE PROPER VALUES OF THE HOME WITH WORTHLESS VALUES. THE FATHER WHO HAS HIS PRIORITIES RIGHT WILL HAVE NO PLACE THE SELFISH, OR WORTHLESS THING.

FAITHLESS MEN ARE THOSE WHO TEAR DOWN AND DO NOT NURTURE. ANY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO DOES NOT NURTURE THE REST OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS SHOULD EXPECT THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE FATHER.

**4 Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil.**

VERSE 4 IS BASICALLY A STATEMENT OF THE VALUE OF HONESTY IN THE HOME. A FATHER SHOULD NOT PRESENT HIMSELF TO THE FAMILY IN DECEIT OR DUPLICITY. HE SHOULD BE HONEST WITH HIS WIFE AND HIS CHILDREN.

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<sup>1</sup> Genuine fatherhood like every other facet of Christian living is a spiritual exercise.

**THE PERFECT FATHER  
PSALM 101**

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**5 Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence;  
whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.**

ITS EASY IGNORE CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY THE TEENS WHEN THEY START TO BADMOUTH THEIR PEERS OR TEACHER. IT'S ALSO EASY FOR THEM TO PICK UP ON DAD'S BADMOUTHING HIS BOSS, CO-WORKERS. THERE IS NOTHING WORSE THAN A DAD WHO IS CONSTANTLY BADMOUTHING HIS SON OR DAUGHTER.

**6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell  
with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.**

THE "FAITHFUL FATHER" ENCOURAGES THE BUILDING UP OF THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS. THE FAITHFUL OF THE LAND ARE THOSE WHO NURTURE, THOSE WHO DO NOT TEAR DOWN BUT ENCOURAGE. THESE ARE THE QUALITIES A FATHER WANTS TO SEE IN HIS CHILDREN. THE LAST HALF OF THIS VERSE REFERS TO DAVID AS KING BUT CAN BE APPLIED TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE FATHER. THE "PERFECT FATHER" SHOULD EXPECT HIS CHILDREN TO BE *WHOLE*. THAT IS WHAT PERFECT MEANS HERE. THERE IS SOMETHING CATCHING ABOUT THE FATHER WHO ALLOWS HIS VULNERABILITY, HIS GENUINENESS (SOME USE THE WORD "TRANSPARENCY") TO SHOW IN THE HOME. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR DUPLICITY IN THE "PERFECT FATHER'S" HOME.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE FIRST HALF OF THIS VERSE. FOR A FATHER'S EYES TO BE UPON THE FAITHFUL IS FOR HIM TO LOOK WITH FAVOR ON HIS CHILDREN - FOR HIM TO TAKE NOTICE OF HIS CHILDREN. IF A CHILD DOESN'T THINK THE FATHER IS INTERESTED IN THE EVERYDAY DETAILS OF HIS LIFE, THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT THE CHILD WILL BEGIN TO BUILD AROUND HIMSELF A CIRCLE OF "FRIENDS" WHO DO SHOW AN INTEREST. THIS IS HOW SOME CHILDREN DRIFT AWAY FROM HOME. THE "PERFECT FATHER" NOT ONLY BUILDS UP HIS CHILDREN BUT ENCOURAGES THEM TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE BY SHOWING AN INTEREST IN THEM.

**Psalm 101:7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he  
that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.**

YES, CHILDREN HAVE SIN NATURES ALSO. THE "PERFECT FATHER" DOES NOT PERMIT THE LIE TO GO UNCHECKED IN HIS HOME. THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PROMOTE A LIE. THE FIRST WORD "*DECEIT*" IS MORE OF AN ACTION WORD. ITS THE *PROCESS* OF DECEIVING THE FAMILY THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH. FOR EXAMPLE, A FATHER SETS THE EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF THE FAMILY BY ALWAYS "FILING A FLIGHT PLAN" OF WHERE HE IS GOING TO BE AT ALL TIMES. HE THEN CAN EXPECT HIS CHILDREN TO DO THE SAME.

THE SECOND PROBLEM IS THE OUTRIGHT LIE. HONESTY, NOT THE LIE, IS THE "MERCHANDISE" OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

**Prov 16:11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; all the  
weights in the bag are of his making. 12 Kings detest wrongdoing, for a  
throne<sup>2</sup> is established through righteousness. 13 Kings take pleasure in  
honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.**

SOLOMON USED AN INTERESTING ILLUSTRATION FOR THE HONEST LIPS. HONESTY IS LIKE A SET OF SCALES. THE "PERFECT FATHER" VALUES THE CHILD WHOSE SCALES ARE ACCURATE. EVERYTHING THE CHILD SAYS SHOULD BE GENUINE, HAVE ACCURATE WEIGHT. THE "PERFECT FATHER" VALUES HIS CHILDREN WHO, LIKE HIM ARE GENUINE.

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<sup>2</sup> Although the reference is to David's throne these principles can be applied to the home.