



Practical Do's and Don'ts
Of
LEADERSHIP

13 Lessons

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2006

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Lesson One

The Importance of Good Leadership In Worship!

(1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14)

Leadership of God's people must not be taken lightly! What we say and do can have an effect for good or bad. We hope that this will become more and more evident in our discussions in class. *No One is Perfect!* However, that does not mean that we can say and do as we please without being concerned about the effect of what I do or say. This is well illustrated in these three chapters of 1 Corinthians (12, 13, 14). The saints at Corinth were struggling with a great number of problems—which wasn't good for them—but God has taken advantage of their situation to help to instruct people in the church through out the generations every since. We can profit by learning from their mistakes.

GOD thinks that worship is important enough for his people that he wants it done well. Most of our study in this series will be dealing with leadership in worship. He doesn't want it to be haphazard, rushed through without thinking about it, unorganized, of just a formal thing we go through. Worship can be meaningful for those that participate from the heart (John 4:24) and that is what God is expecting from those that gather each week.

An Overview of 1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14

The Apostles were to receive “Power” when the Holy Spirit came and “baptized them!” (Acts 1:8). Not only was the Spirit to “guide them into all truth and bring all things to their remembrance (John 14:26; 16:13), but He was to give them the power to pass on these gifts to some in each church that needed guidance from God. The New Testament had not been written at this time and the Apostles could not be at each church all the time—so, special miraculous gifts were needed so the church could not only be properly taught, but guided into how to worship and live and serve as His people. These gifts were needed to help them teach, but some of the gifts were for the purpose of confirming their message as being from God (Mark 16:15-20; Hebrews 2:3-4).

1. Please list the miraculous gifts in 1 Cor. 12:4-11.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a) | f) |
| b) | g) |
| c) | h) |
| d) | i) |
| e) | |

2. Who decided who would get what gift?

3. Please list any additional gifts mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:28-31.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

In spite of these wonderful gifts given to the church at Corinth, they still had problems (human problems as well as teaching programs). They showed signs of being carnally-minded, not spiritually-minded (1 Cor. 3:1-3). They needed to mature spiritually! This, obviously, was the purpose of the gifts—to help them all to grow strong in Christ! (1 Cor. 12:7). And possibly, their biggest problem was a lack of God’s love in the exercising of their gifts.

*They immediately became talented, but were unloving in the use of the talent!
 They could have ability to speak God’s message, but in an unloving way!
 Knowledge or Wisdom was theirs for the use, but failed to show either in their
 use of both.
 They could have great faith and do great works, but without a loving heart.*

3. What did the Apostle say about the use of these gifts without love? (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

4. What analogy did the Apostle use to illustrate how the church should function in the use of these gifts? (1 Cor. 12:12-27).

5. How is this love described in 1 Cor. 13:4-7?

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____
- i) _____
- j) _____
- k) _____
- l) _____
- m) _____
- n) _____
- o) _____

6. What in particular shows the superiority of love? (1 Cor. 13:8-12)

While exemplifying God's love in our midst, especially our worship assemblies, is important; it is also important that our worship be acceptable to God. Thus, the reason for chapter 14 is to help them and us to see how our worship should be conducted. It shows how LOVE uses the miraculous gifts to accomplish God's purpose or it shows us how we are to use our natural abilities in a loving way. Chapter 14 primarily deals with activities in our public worship. It even deals with the differences in the role of men and women in the assembly. Then, the chapter ends with the admonition: ***Let all things be done decently and in order.***" (14:40). These classes will cover the practical applications in worship.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What role should elders play in regards to worship? _____

2. What role should deacons play in regards to worship? _____

3. How can we be sure that things will be done decently and in order? _____

4. What is one of the basic dangers listed in 1 Corinthians 4:6? _____

5. What was the problem with some of the Corinthians? _____

Lesson Two

Preaching in our Worship Assemblies!

(1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14)

Preaching is one of the activities that we engage in as we come together to worship God.

It is important that we realize the seriousness of these activities that we engage in as we come together. People's lives can be impacted for eternity. The study of God's Word together with the preacher leading, as well as other men, has the possibilities of influencing men and women, boys and girls, to give their lives in service to God and man. We know there is a strong emphasis in the New Testament upon preaching to the lost (Romans 10:14-15; Mark 16:15-16). There is also an emphasis upon preaching the "Truth" "in love." (2 Timothy 4:1-2; Ephesians 4:15). But why preach to the church? It is God's design for the good of His people (Ephesians 4:11-14). Some of the greatest sermons ever preached can be found in the Old Testament books of Prophecy. Most of their messages were to the people of God. One of the several reasons for preaching in our worship assemblies is to keep the "Truth" before God's people by instruction, rebuke, and exhortation (2 Timothy 4:1-4). It must be kept in mind that it is not just the preaching that is showing respect for God's Word as he preaches it—but, all of us as we listen and evaluate what is said and desire to make application of it—is our part of the worship activity.

1. What are some admonitions in regards to the one doing the preaching in our assemblies?

- a) 1 Cor. 2:2 _____
- b) 1 Cor. 2:4-7 _____
- c) 1 Cor. 4:1-2 _____
- d) Phil. 1:15-17 _____
- e) 1 Cor. 14:26 _____
- f) 1 Tim. 4:12 _____
- g) Titus 2:7-8 _____
- h) Titus 3:9 _____

2. Why are women not allowed by God to get up and speak before the assembly? (1 Cor. 14:34-35?) _____

3. What should be done with the message that is preached?

- a) James 1:22-24 _____
- b) Acts 17:11 _____
- c) Matthew 5:6 _____

4. When does "edification" come from preaching? _____

Lesson Three

Teaching

in our Worship Assemblies!

(James 3:1)

Teaching is usually thought of as being done in our Bible classes or in a one-on-one situation; however, we believe that teaching can and is done in our worship assemblies as well. Preaching, itself, is a form of teaching. Remarks by the various men that take a lead in the assembly could be regarded as teaching. Regardless of the situation—teaching needs to be done with proper respect for God and God’s people. It can be an effective part in the leading of God’s people in worship to God. In this lesson, we want to look at the role of teachers as leaders in our worship assemblies.

The Importance of Teaching

Teaching is emphasized both in the Old and New Testaments. A strong emphasis is given for fathers to teach their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1-3). The priests and prophets were to teach God’s people under the Old Covenant how God expected them to live (Psalms 32:8; Ezekiel 44:23). Teachers with wrong motives can help to lead God’s people astray (Isaiah 9:15-16). It was very important for teachers to realize their grave responsibility to teach the people correctly of God’s ways. And....God’s people should want to be taught the things from God!

In the New Testament we see Jesus first of all as the “master” teacher! (Matthew 4:23; 7:28-29). Jesus sent his disciples out to teach people, at first, to the Jews (Matthew 10) in what is called “the limited commission.” Later, He gave them the great commission to go and teach or make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20). And to continue to teach these disciples to observe all that Jesus has commanded! John’s Gospel records Jesus as quoting from Jeremiah that men must be taught before they can come to Him (John 6:44-45). The importance of teaching is also emphasized by James when he warned: **“Be not many of you teachers....knowing that such will receive a stricter judgment.”** (James 3:1). God does not want to discourage teaching, but to discourage wrong and unqualified teachers—who miss teach or lead people astray. The importance of teaching is also seen in that God has determined that such will be in the church (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29).

1. What are the stated purposes for teaching in the assembly? (Ephesians 4:12-16)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

2. What role do women have in teaching?

a) Titus 2:3-5 _____

b) 1 Timothy 2:9-14 _____

3. What are some things that help to make a good teacher?

a) Leviticus 10:3 _____

b) 1 Corinthians 11:2; Colossians 1:22 _____

c) Philippians 2:3-4 _____

d) 2 Timothy 2:15 _____

e) 1 Timothy 1:3 _____

f) 1 Timothy 4:12 _____

g) 1 Timothy 4:16 _____

h) Hebrews 13:7 _____

Questions for Discussion

1. How can you know that you have taught someone?

2. What are some effective ways of teaching someone?

3. What are the rewards of teaching?

4. How does teaching and worship tie together?

5. What are some questionable things about teaching?

Lesson Four

Announcements in our Worship Assemblies!

(Acts 14:27)

Announcements! Do you connect Announcements and Worship together in your mind? Should announcements be a part of our worship assembly? Are announcements “worship” to God? How do we justify having them at the time of our worship assemblies? I doubt that very many of us have even entertained such questions—much less, to try to answer them! There is very little evidence in the Scriptures that would indicate if such should be present in our assemblies. Look at the passages listed below and see if you can get an indication of such in them:

a) Acts 6:1-4 _____

b) Acts 13:1-3 _____

c) Acts 14:27 _____

1. What are some “Biblical Terms” that may identify with our English term “announcements?”

a) Acts 4:36 _____

b) Hebrews 10:24-25 _____

c) Acts 15:12 _____

2. What would be some justifiable reasons for having announcements in our assemblies?

Is it possible that “announcements” can be identified with teaching, informing, instructing, or encouraging God’s people? Our primary purpose in worship is to honor and glorify God (John 4:24). However, a secondary purpose is to edify, build up, encourage, and challenge God’s people (1 Corinthians 14:26)

Lesson Five

Song Leading

in our Worship Assemblies!

(Hebrews 2:12)

Singing! What a blessing! One of the great privileges that God has given to mankind is to be enabled to sing. Singing can be used to express all kinds of feelings or emotions: Joy, elation, happiness, or even sadness! Singing is involved in all areas of our lives. And...God has chosen this act as one of the avenues of our worship to Him! ***“Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”*** (Psalm 30:4). The Psalms are in reality poetry to be sung by Israel—and even God’s people today (Colossians 3:16). God’s people today can be greatly blessed if we will recognize the importance of singing in our worship assemblies—especially, when we have song leaders who help us pour out our soul to God in praise, adoration, and honor! We need song leaders who can bring out the best in us in our praise of our God.

1. What are some passages that deal with singing in the New Testament?

- a) Acts 16:25 _____
- b) James 5:13 _____
- c) Hebrews 2:12 _____
- d) Ephesians 5:19 _____

- e) Colossians 3:16 _____
- f) Revelations 5:9 _____
- g) Revelations 14:3 _____
- h) Revelations 15:3 _____

The New Testament seems to almost, if not altogether, assume that God’s people are going to want to sing! Since so much was made of singing in the Old Testament, it would naturally follow that Christians have even more reasons for singing to praise and honor God. In our assemblies, it would seem to be important to have song leaders who can help us truly express our worship of God from our hearts (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 5:16). The Apostle also says that our singing is one way of teaching and admonishing one another. Therefore, it would seem common sense to be sure that the songs that we sing are correct teaching of the Word of God! One of the things that we must understand—*“Don’t assume the words in the song books are all correct!”* To do his job well, a song leader should not lead songs that are either questionable or incorrect in wording.

Lesson Six

Leading Prayer
in our Worship Assemblies!
(1 Corinthians 14:15)

Praying together is a great privilege that we have as a congregation of people! But it is also an avenue of worship and honor to our God! One of our most challenging areas of the Christian life is to properly understand and make use of the privilege of prayer. Prayer is a struggle to understand correctly. But it is also a “struggle” with God as well (Genesis 32:24-32).

There is quite a bit said about prayer in Scripture. We will only cover a few things in this lesson, since our primary reason for this study is dealing with leadership in prayer.

- a) James 5:15 _____
- b) James 5:16-18 _____
- c) James 5:16 _____
- d) 1 Timothy 2:1-2 _____
- e) 1 Timothy 2:5 _____
- f) 1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____

1. From the above Scriptures, what would be some important things that the prayer leader in our assemblies needs to understand?

2. What is said about women leading prayers with men present? (1 Timothy 2:8, 11-12)_____

3. What are some practical things said about Prayer?

- a) 1 Cor. 14:15-19 _____
- b) Matthew 6:5-6 _____
- c) Matthew 6:7 _____
- d) James 4:2 _____
- e) James 4:3 _____
- f) James 4:8-10 _____
- g) 1 Timothy 2:8 _____

4. What indication do we have that someone needs to lead the congregation in prayer?

Questions for discussion

1. What are the various kinds of Prayers in our worship assemblies and their purposes?

2. What are some good suggestions to prayer leaders?

3. What are some often made mistakes of prayer leaders?

Lesson Seven

Leading in Communion in our Worship Assemblies!

(1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

Communing with one another around the Lord's Table is not only a command of the Lord, but it should be one that is counted a privilege by God's people! Why do we do what we do in our worship assemblies? If God had said "Worship Me," but gave no specific activities in which to engage to worship Him, what could we do? It should be obvious that we could do anything that we desire that we feel would be adequate in worship to Him. But God has not left this up to us to decide. He decided for us! He has specified the activities He wants and we do well to do them so that we can be pleasing to Him. And yet.....in understanding this, we also see clearly that all we do is basically for our benefit!

1. What are the various terms used to identify this activity of worship?

- a) 1 Cor. 11:20 _____
- b) 1 Cor. 10:16 _____
- c) 1 Cor. 10:21 _____
- d) Acts 2:42; 207 _____

2. Why is prayer involved when we partake of the Lord's Supper? (Matthew 26:26-29) _____

3. What are some special instructions about the Lord's Supper?

- a) Matthew 26:26-29 _____
- b) Mark 14:22-25 _____
- c) 1 Cor. 11:24-25 _____
- d) 1 Cor. 11:27, 29-32 _____
- e) 1 Cor. 11:28 _____

Questions for discussion

- 1. In what ways can the men who lead in connection with the Communion help us to do partake correctly?**

- 2. What are some things that can detract from partaking of the Lord's Supper?**

- 3. How much time should be taken on comments at the Table?**

- 4. Why do we have a song and comments at the Table?**

- 5. What is a primary admonition in connection with all of our worship? (1 Cor. 14:26, 40)**

Lesson Eight

Leading in Reading Scripture
in our Worship Assemblies!

(Exodus 24:1-7)

Reading of the Scriptures publicly has been encouraged in both the Old and New Testaments. When Moses first received the Law, he wrote it down and then rehearsed it (read it) to all the people to get their consent to keep it. The obvious reason for public reading is more common sense than a command of God, since they only had one copy of God's Word given through Moses; and, for the people to know what it was—it had to be read to them. When the church was being established all over the Roman World in the first century, the inspired letters being sent to the churches would at first, at least, need to be read to the congregation. Later, their own personal copies could be made for their benefit—if they could read! The likelihood is—that since so many people could not read, it would be wise to read the Scriptures publicly for their benefit. But, even now in America when we all can have our own personal copy of the Scriptures, we can still see a value in the public reading of Scriptures. Most of the preaching and teaching done in the congregation is in connection with the reading of the Scriptures to the congregation.

- 1. Do we have any New Testament admonitions to read the Scriptures publicly? (Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27) _____
- 2. Upon whom is a blessing pronounced in Rev. 1:3? _____
- 3. How do we worship when we have a public reading of Scripture? _____

- 4. What were some occasions when God's Word was publicly read to the Israelites?
 - a) Exo. 24:7 _____
 - b) Deut. 31:11-13 _____
 - c) Neh. 8:1-3, 5; 9:1-3 _____

 - d) 2 Kings 23:1-3 _____

Questions for Discussion

- 1. What value do you see in the public reading of Scriptures?**

- 2. What are some things for the leader to avoid when reading publicly?**

- 3. As a public Scripture reader, how do I determine what to read?**

- 4. What are some good suggestions that will help to make my reading more effective?**

- 5. What is the point of the public reading of Scripture without comment?**

Lesson Nine

Giving
in our Worship Assemblies!
(1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Giving! What part does giving play in our worship to God? It should be obvious to all that giving has been a part of man's actions towards God from the very beginning. Cain and Abel brought gifts to God (Genesis 4:1-5). Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek (a priest of the Most High God)(Genesis 14:17-20). Jacob promised to give a tenth of his prosperity to God (Genesis 28:20-22). Under the Law of Moses, a tenth was required plus extra giving. What are some things stated in the New Testament about our giving?

- a) Acts 20:33-35 _____
- b) Acts 2:44-45 _____
- c) Acts 4:32-35 _____
- d) 1 Cor. 16:1-2 _____
- e) 2 Cor. 8:1-5 _____
- f) 2 Cor. 9:6-9 _____

1. In what sense is giving an act of worship (Romans 12:1-2) _____

2. What can help me to worship in giving? _____

3. Why give on Sunday? (1 Cor. 16:1-2) _____

4. What percentage is the Christians to give? (2 Cor. 9:6-11) _____

5. As a leader in my family, how do we decide our giving? _____

Questions for Discussion

- 1. In what way do we need a leader in connection with our giving in our assembly?**

- 2. What can he do to help make our worship better in this regard?**

- 3. Does God's people need to be challenged to give sacrificially? (Malachi 3:10; 2 Cor. 8:7-8).**

- 4. What attitudes can a leader help us see that we exemplify when we give as we should?**

- 5. Can the leader (in connection with giving) be a hindrance to our giving? If so, in what way?**

Lesson Ten

ELDERS

As Leaders in the Church

(1 Peter 5:1-5)

Elders as Leaders! We change our directions somewhat, but we will still be looking at leadership in the church—not necessarily in the assembly. However, if elders are leaders, they will naturally stand before the congregation to teach, exhort, encourage, instruct, give guidance, etc. God has ordained that elders be appointed in every church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Philippians 1:2). He wants His church to have qualified men to see after His people. These qualities are spelled out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Generally, these men are to be:

- a) Older—experienced men in life, wisdom, and spiritual insights.
- b) Spiritually able to show and tell how to live the Christian life.
- c) Be good leaders like a shepherd concerned for his sheep.
- d) To oversee God’s word—to see that it goes well and correct.

1. What should be the church’s attitude towards these men?

- a) 1 Thess. 5:13 _____
- b) Heb. 13:7 _____
- c) Heb. 13:17 _____
- d) 1 Tim. 5:17-18 _____
- _____
- e) James 5:14 _____
- f) Acts 15:1-2 _____
- _____

2. What warnings have been given to elders? (1 Pet. 5:1-4)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

3. Should elders ever have to be rebuked? (1 Tim. 5:1, 19-20) _____

Please state your reason(s). _____

Questions for Discussion

- 1. How do you de-appoint an elder who is not acting correctly?**

- 2. Do elders lead by their example?**

- 3. What should be done to the person who will not submit to their leadership?**

- 4. Do elders have to do all the work of leading?**

- 5. How does an elder or the eldership show their leadership?**

Lesson Eleven

DEACONS

As Leaders in the Church

(1 Timothy 3:8-13)

Deacons as Leaders! Can just anyone be a leader? Yes, it is possible for most people, even small children to lead others—depending upon whom they are influencing. We are trying to look briefly at leadership in the church and see some practical values of such. Our primary emphasis has been on leadership in the worship assemblies. But these last four lessons will be looking at the leadership of men in the church in special responsible positions and of their leadership in the home. We have already briefly looked at leadership of Elders—now, we want to look briefly at the leadership of Deacons.

As with elders, so it is with deacons—God wants men in these positions of responsibilities that can be depended upon to carry out the work He has assigned to them—that is, qualified men (1 Timothy 3:8-13). There is only one other reference to deacons in the New Testament besides this reference in 1 Timothy 3:8-13—that is, Philippians 1:1.

This word “deacon” is not a translation, but a transliteration of the Greek word **DEAKONEO (de-ak-o-ne-o)**. When the Greek word is translated, it is usually given as “to serve” or “to minister to.” The word gives the best idea of the kind of leadership that these men will exemplify. Jesus said that that the greatest among you is the servant of all (Matthew 20:26-28). These men are servant leaders. They help to lead the congregation in serving others or each other.

1. How important is it for deacons to be well-grounded in the faith? (1 Tim. 3:9) _____

2. How important is it that both elders and deacons have well behaved children? (1 Tim. 3:4-5; Tit. 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:12) _____

3. What will cause deacons to be highly respected? (1 Tim. 3:13) _____

Questions for Discussion

- 1. In what manner do deacons show their leadership in the church?**

- 2. Is there authority in connection with the work of deacons?**

- 3. What are some things that will hinder the leadership of deacons?**

- 4. Does the appointment of the work of a deacon depend to some extent on his temperament?**

- 5. Can just anyone be asked to serve in the church?**

Lesson Twelve

MEN

Who Lead as Husbands in the Home

(Ephesians 5:25-29)

Men lead as Husbands! If you are not a husband now, you may be someday. This is the way that God has designed things—that the man is to be the leader (head) in his home (Genesis 3:16). When men fail as such, they are a disappointment to the God who made them and created or design this arrangement. We can also be a disappointment to our wife as well since she is dependent upon my leadership. Men need to MAJOR in being the best husbands they can be. This is a very important role in life—and as well—in society! Such leadership calls for great character, commitment, and fidelity. Keeping holiness, harmony, and happiness in the home depends upon men carrying out their God-given responsibilities.

The Bible's emphasis upon man's leadership in the various passages below help to give an overall picture of this responsibility:

- a) Gen. 2:7, 18, 21-24 _____

- b) Gen. 3:16 _____
- c) 1 Cor. 14:34-35 _____
- d) 1 Tim. 2:9-15 _____

One thing for sure....for a man to be the head of his wife he cannot be a wimp nor too immature. He needs to be mature enough to make good decisions and deal with the great responsibilities that lie before him. In taking headship over his wife, he does it at God's command, and not from his own thinking (Ephesians 5:23). His headship over his wife is compared to Christ's headship over the church. This headship should be exercised in the following ways:

- a) Eph. 5:25-29 _____
- b) 1 Cor. 7:3 _____
- c) 1 Pet. 3:7 _____
- d) 1 Pet. 3:7 _____
- e) 1 Pet. 3:6 _____

Lesson Thirteen

MEN*Who Lead as Fathers in the Home*

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

Fathers! What a responsibility! We are looking at the role of men in the church and in the home and something about the responsibilities they are expected to accept and deal with. God has designed not only marriage between a man and a woman, but He has also designed that they bring children into the world to be raised up with respect and obedience to God also. Children have to be taught to first of all respect their parents before they can understand how to respect the God of heaven. Thus, the admonition: ***“Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*** (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

One of the sad commentaries upon the human race is its failure to train their children. In Romans 1:18-32, there is a long list of sins and rebellion against God. They did not want to listen to God, but wanted to do their own thing. God’s wrath was to be poured out upon them for their willing disobedience (1:32). However, in this list of terrible sins is one that explains part of the reason for such rebellion...parents who failed to teach their children to be respectful of their elders—***“disobedient to parents!”*** (1:30). A similar listing is given in 2 Timothy 3:1-7 in which this same sin is mentioned. Men who forsake or mess up on their role as spiritual leaders in the home will see the sad end results of such failure—chaos in the family, their community, their nation, and in the world. The world in Noah’s day was evil continually! (Genesis 6:5-7). Do we have to guess why?

But we need to notice something about the world in Noah’s day! Noah reared his children in an evil world! And yet, they all were counted worthy to enter the ark to be saved from the terrible destruction in the flood. Things may look bad now, but the job can still be done if we set our minds to the task—just like Noah! If heaven is to be our home and our children’s home, we need to set our minds that we can and must succeed as fathers. We need to wisely use the time that we have to:

- a) Be someone that the child can love and respect;
- b) Be the spiritual leader and example in our homes;
- c) Teach effectively and correctly God’s Will to our children;
- d) Communicate accurately and lovingly the right attitudes to have;
- e) Be strong, courageous, steadfast, and unmovable in living for God (1 Cor. 15:58);
- f) Strive to possess the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23);
- g) Teach them how to listen, learn, and plan their lives in righteousness;
- h) And to Teach them that we are all responsible for our choices and actions.

The following quote can help to emphasize the criticalness of our job:

“Lax parenting is a virtual death sentence given the fact that we only have a handful of years during which we have ‘hope’ of helping our children govern their habits, shape their values, and learn the joy of doing God’s will. Once they have left our homes we

surround them with prayer and ask God to send positive influences into their lives. But our opportunity to do what is needed ourselves flees all too quickly. We dare not waste an hour of it."

Questions for Discussion

- 1. How can a father overcome his being away so much from his family and still be successful in his efforts to raise them correctly?**
- 2. How can we know how our children perceive us as their father?**
- 3. How well did Abraham do as a father? (Gen. 18:16-19)**
- 4. Why do some children rebel or turn out bad, while others turn out good in the same family?**

