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PVBC MEN'S MINISTRY

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Legacy of Love by Jake Simpson

When I was coming up in a suburb of El Paso, Texas, life was so good. I knew my parents loved me. More importantly I knew my parents loved each other, and that, in hindsight, is what made the rest of life so good.

As a truck driver for the union, my dad drove 10 hours a day (at night), six days a week. My Mom maintained the house, refereed differences between five kids, did all the shopping, laundry, meals, and occasionally got help from us kids. Mom never said a negative word about Dad's hours or our situation. She just worked hard, loved us deeply, and never complained. She served us in every capacity until dad was home and awake. When he was home, her role changed. Her load lightened.

When he was home, Dad did all the initiating. He led all the work projects and the social parties we hosted for older siblings' friends. He even handled the cops when the parties were too loud and assured them he was in control and that there was no alcohol in the home (there never was).

Because life for my mom was better when Dad was around, I never considered that she submitted to his leadership because of scripture. It was clear they had different roles. It was also clear which roles us children were to follow from their example. Work loads for us children were never questioned. We were just happy to be around our dad, so work for the most part was a chance to be around dad and mom together, and that was the best life could be.

The one truth that strengthened my parents' relationship is that they genuinely enjoyed being around each other. They respected each other's hard work and separate roles. Those two roles coming together made our blessed lives possible. The result, in hindsight, was obedience in each child that rarely strayed or deviated from the wishes of our parents.

One of the benefits of maturity and hindsight is that I now see why my parents accepted their roles so easily and worked together so well in those roles. Simply, their faith in God set precedence for my mom's role as a woman, and my dad's role as a man. That strength and clarity made home life peaceful and simple for us children to grow in. Since my mom cherished my dad's leadership, she did not see submission as a chore or duty but rather as a role from God to be enjoyed.

The refusal for parents to settle this issue of roles within the home may be the single most detrimental factor for rebellion within the home for their young adult children. Confusion regarding male and female roles do not merely affect behavioral choices of young adult men and women. They also affect the basis for healthy marriage patterns between Christ and the church. Additionally, failure to demonstrate the roles between men and women fail to train boys to be masculine and girls to be feminine.

Every parent must set rules, especially Christian parents who want to please God. The infusing of rules without the accepting of roles within the home is inviting anarchy within our children. Not because children need an invitation to sin and rebel; this comes natural to all. Yet, to be given rules and to observe parents' struggle with the roles they aspire to as Christians teaches children about walls (healthy boundaries) and gates (healthy choices) and to become dependant on God.

No doubt love is the most attractive part of Christianity to onlookers. Likewise, love within the home is divinely attractive to children watching for roles and character development to emulate.

To read more, go to www.rtfministries.org and click on Walls and Gates.



Jake and Therri Simpson have been blessed with eleven children whom Therri home schools. Together, they founded Restore the Family Ministries in 1997.

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

YOU NEED ONLY TO BE STILL.

Exodus 14:14b

From microwaves to smart phones to touch screens, we're accustomed to immediate results.

While we may consider delays as an inconvenience, Scripture instructs us to wait on the Lord. Consider how to prayerfully bide your time in a way that glorifies God.

Choose to trust. God's plans for you are better than any you could come up with on your own. So let go of worried planning and embrace His timing.

Engage with the here and now. It's easy to want the kids to grow up a little more so they can take on added responsibility, but then we suddenly find they're teenagers and we wonder where the years have gone. Enjoy today's blessings today.

Delight in the Lord. Changing our lifestyles to reflect our love for Jesus, wanting Him to be glorified in every part of our lives - these are ways we show our delight in Christ.

It is hard to be patient, but God is faithful. There is no problem too big for Him and no detail too small.

LEGACY 2011

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Deut. 6:4-9



OCT. 7-9
OCT. 14-16

What will you leave behind?