



LEADERS NEEDED!

By: Calvin Ray Evans

I Peter 3:1-7

There is something lacking in our nation today! It is sad to say that this country is in great need of leaders. I am not talking about political, educational, medical, professional or economical leadership. The basic pattern for leadership lies in the home. Long before there was ever an institution for learning or healing, the Lord established the home. Not only is the family the basic building block of all humanity, everything rises and falls on the success of it. The Lord gave the guidelines for every person's role in the family. This message is not targeted at the wife or even the children. This sermon is directed to the fathers of this land and is a "**call to action**" for them to pursue the teachings of God to humble us all and see this nation turn around spiritually.

The word "**leadership**" denotes motion. The part the father plays in society is not to dictate. Nor is it merely to oversee the family. The emphasis on a leader is to move the family unit forward in a spiritual sense. This swaying toward the things of God is slowly disappearing and I think there is evidence all around us. The shortfall of morality, ethics and commitment can be traced to the failure of fathers in this country to take on certain responsibilities.

When I was a child, Fathers Day was a greatly attended event in the church calendar. Now, many churches can't tell a difference on that Sunday from any other normal day of worship. The reason being, fathers are not assuming their place of spiritual leadership in this land. The evasion of their duties to instruct their children and the avoidance of many dads to provide for the children are telling on us. It is not uncommon for many children to grow up with no knowledge of who their father even is! In the meantime, our courts are bogged down with cases of some men who avoid responsibility of supporting their offspring. This is a shame to any nation.

Mothers Day is the greatest day of the year for the telephone companies. The volume on that day is higher than any other day. The second highest day for calls nationwide is Christmas. Then Fathers Day is third. However, the **phone companies make more money on Fathers Day than any other holiday.** Do you know why? There are more collect calls made on that day!

I read an account of a prison that made available hundreds of greeting cards to the inmates to send to their moms on Mothers Day. The demand was so great they ran out. They appealed to the greeting card companies to donate more cards for Fathers Day. Much to their surprise, not a single inmate wanted to send a card to their dad on Fathers Day. Many of them did not even know the name of their father. Some had not spoken to their dad in years.

True Biblical and Godly leadership is portrayed in this text. I think many people avoid this passage out of concern it may be interpreted incorrectly. Especially, in the area of "subjection." I have heard that subject preached on with wrong emphasis many times.

The word "**subjection**" is a Greek military term meaning "to arrange under the command of a leader." In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility and carrying a burden." In the time of war, the military usually has two types of soldiers: recruits who are drafted and those who volunteer. In this text, it has more of the emphasis on the volunteer. It is not instruction for any man to be abusive or forceful with his wife. To the contrary, it is seasoned with love. The wife follows because she looks up to and admires her husband. She trusts him because he has given her every reason to. In other words, he has been a true leader in the home!

In order to be a leader you must have a **disciplined life.** You make your own choices as the "man of the house." When

you were in the womb you ate what your mother ate. When she gave birth to you then you were born with the right to make decisions. Therefore, if you fail it is not someone else's fault. You steer your life. God may let others in your ship of life, but He does not let them control the wheel. "*And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?*"(Luke 16:12). If you do not have respect, it is because you are not respectable. If we lead right, then others will follow.

To lead others you must also have **divine leadership.** God must be sovereign in your life. He is in control no matter what you go through. Just walk with God even when you don't agree with the place He leads you. If He is in control and something goes wrong, then He assumes responsibility and will always take care of you. You will find His power in your pain and purpose in your problem.

God is no respecter of persons but He is of principles. When God created Adam, He told him to till the soil he came from. The plan is so plain. It will work if you will work it. If you do what God wants, you will get what God has.

Finally, to be a leader there must be a **domestic love.** Show your family the passion you have for the Lord. As a preacher, I can't get a church to follow me if I can't get my family to. Headship is a covering that brings security in the home. A church will never rise above its' leadership. A family will never move higher than its' head either. My plea is personal. My prayer is simple, "**God give us fathers who will lead their family in your ways!**" I hope this will be an encouragement to all the hard working loving fathers who read this. I know God wants to send us revival. Real refreshing will always affect the home before it touches the nation!