

# The University Heights Messenger

February 13, 2010

## When My Children Look At Me

As my children grow older what will they see when they look at me? What do I want them to see? Strangely enough, I have been thinking about these two questions since 2:37 Thursday morning after awaking from a *very* weird dream (save me the embarrassment and don't ask!). Yet as odd and convoluted as the dream was, it *did* cause me to consider the spiritual example I intend to set for my children and that is always a good thing. So, what do I wish for my children to see when they look at their dad?

### **A man doing his best to lead his family properly.**

In my mind the manliest statement of spiritual intention one could ever hope to read is found in Joshua 24:14-15. "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What a statement! There was no hedging, no caveats, no doubts. That's an example all children should see in their father.

As my children grow and become involved in athletics and other recreational activities they will *never* miss worship service to engage in them. Their coach or teacher will know this before my children join the team. If they fail to make the team or are not permitted to take part in the activity because of that then so be it.

When we go on vacation we will *never* miss a worship service to engage in vacation

activities. I will teach my children that a Christian does not go on vacation from the Lord. If an area we'd like to visit has no church within driving distance, we won't go.

They won't always like these decisions any more than I did when I was growing up in my parents house. However, they will know Matthew 10:37 says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." They'll likely pout, sulk, and cry from time to time just as I did. A little sulking never hurt anyone and there are much more important things than a child's moment to moment happiness. A godly example, for instance. My prayer is that my children will see their father as a man doing his very best to lead properly, even when his decisions don't always make them happy.

### **A humble, repentant man.**

I am far from perfect as a father and I doubt that I will achieve flawlessness as my children advance in age. I will likely punish unjustly from time to time and I will snap at them occasionally when my day was long and hard. Not every decision that I make will be the right one and I will likely do some things that hurt and embarrass them.

Neither of my parents were perfect when I was in the house. Yet they would both apologize to my sister and I when they felt as though they did something unjust or excessive. That took a humble, repentant spirit that some Christians seem to lack at all, much less in their capacity as parents. Yet in their willingness to admit fault my parents, particularly dad, put Ephesians 6:4 into practice. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." My first introduction to genuine repentance came from my parents within the home. That

has never been lost on me.

**A man always there to love and listen to them.**

Though I was spanked, grounded, and relieved of certain privileges around the house from time to time, I never questioned whether my parents loved me (not seriously, anyway). All these years later I find myself calling mom or dad whenever I need to talk through something or need some advice. I learned very early in life that they would always be there for me and that whatever advice they give, even if I don't like it or particularly want to hear it, will be to my advantage.

As I write I am listening to Jackie admonishing Jacob (forcefully) to stay out of our bathroom cabinets. He's shouting his baby defiance but sounds to be losing the battle convincingly. In fact, it just became a rout. There will be many of these little "skirmishes" throughout the years. There sure was with me and my parents (I personally saw to it). But I will never for a second let them forget that I love them and will do what's best for them, even if it causes us both pain in the process.

I know what I want my children to see when they look at their father. Now I must continually grow into that man. I can do it, with God's help.

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**IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

The treatments for **Tom Curtis** are working well. This is wonderful news as it prevents the necessary use of radiation which could be dangerous to him.

**Tabetha Lynn** (niece of Gina Seabolt's sister-in-law) continues to need our prayer after her car accident.

**Shelly Stewart** (friend of the Wallace's) has had her surgery and is at home now. This is fantastic news as the surgeries were very serious.

Our members: **Jim Edwards, Jeff Howerton, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Vina Krassow, Marples family, Glyon Hill, Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7.

The men's meeting will be today at 3:30.

**BIBLE READING SCHEDULE**

**Sun:** Gen 25-26, Ps 13, Matt 15  
**Mon:** Gen 27, Ps 14, Matt 16-17  
**Tue:** Gen 28-29, Ps 15, Matt 18  
**Wed:** Gen 30, Ps 16, Matt 19  
**Thu:** Gen 31, Ps 17, Matt 20  
**Fri:** Gen 32-33, Ps 18:1-24, Matt 21  
**Sat:** Gen 34-35, Ps 18:25-50, Matt 22

**SERMON TOPICS:**

Sunday AM. The Holy Spirit 1  
(John 14:16-26)

Sunday PM. The Holy Spirit 2  
(John 16:7-8)