



# New Living

*Welcome!*

We are glad to have you with us today and want you to feel comfortable as we enter into worship.

Audio CD's of our sermons are free upon your request. Please browse our free CD selection in the foyer.

Please come back and be with us anytime you have the opportunity!

Inside this issue:

The Fatherly Influence	2
You Have Been Invited	3
Fear & Awe	4
News & Notes	5
Meetings & Events	5
Today's Prayer List	5
Those Serving Today	6

## THE FATHERLY INFLUENCE

**W**ednesday's USA TODAY had an interesting article. In "At Nation's Churches Guys are Few in Pews" Cathy Grossman reports that 31% of men in America never go to church. In most American churches, women far outweigh the number of men in regular attendance. When building a new worship facility, one congregation near Dallas, Texas decorated its building with men in mind. Forget pastel colors and flowers. They put in a stone floor, used hunter green and amber décor, placed rustic wooden beams on their ceiling, and built their church website with a woodsy background. Interesting. They say they are committed to reaching the men of their community.

There were other striking statistics mentioned in this article that we should be aware of. When a child is converted to Christ, 12% of the time the family will follow them to church. When the mother is converted, 15% of the time the family will follow. But, **if the dad is converted, 90% of the time the family will attend services with them.** Wow! What does that say about the influence of dads? While I am not purposing we deck out our facility like a hunting lodge, I do think we need to recognize the importance of male spiritual leadership in our families. Dads...how are you doing?

In Deuteronomy 6:7, we find Israelite families being instructed to teach their families about spiritual things. This responsibility fell upon the father. The task of "indoctrinating" children was a responsibility of the home and **it still is today.** Television, secular schools, and regular attendance at bible study and worship will never replace what God wants to be done inside the home. Dads, are you exhibiting spiritual leadership through your example and private teaching?

The passage in Deuteronomy specifies that the teaching in the home is to be done with diligence. Dan DeGarmo has written, "We are seeing many Christians today who are being taught an enormous amount of biblical facts but

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

later in life they amount to nothing short of a lost soul. They learned theology, but somehow missed out on the authenticity. Is this the fault of the parents? Very possibly. Perhaps the thing that was omitted was diligence.” We must never discount the impact of diligence. I really like how the NIV translates Deuteronomy 6:7. It says, *you shall intensely sharpen your sons*. That is the literal meaning behind our English word for “diligence”. This is a strong command. Passiveness is not associated with the teaching in this verse. Fathers must have an aggressive and assertive involvement in the spiritual training of their families. Sometimes, we may make a mistake in believing that our families will automatically soak up our

zeal for God. This is not the case. When dads are diligent about spiritual service, the family will follow. We must trust in God!

Deuteronomy 6:7 says that Israelite families were to talk about spiritual things inside their families. Lest we think only in the context of formal teaching, that is not what is being referred to here. Inside the Hebrew language there is a specific term that refers to formal teaching, etc. There is also another word that is used that involves informal communication, and that is the word used in Deuteronomy 6:7. In other words, God’s people were expected to talk of spiritual matters just as they would talk about anything else inside the home! How much is God brought up in our homes? Inside our daily conversation? Speaking and thinking about Jesus should fit naturally into the regular conversation and lifestyle of the home. Fathers, are you contributing to this? Are

you leading in this area?

Christianity is designed for everyday life—it is not just a Sunday and Wednesday activity! Authentic spiritual living should be seen every day. Thoughts and focus on godly things must be done throughout the week. Resting, working, fishing, hunting, driving, watching television, any time is an opportunity to teach! God’s truths can always be deposited in to the lives of our family. Solomon has written: *My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother. Bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck, when you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life*, Proverbs 6:20-23.

Dads, God has given you a wonderful opportunity to lead through example. Never underestimate the power of your influence! Be consistent. Be loving. Be an example!

Matthew Allen

[mhallen@brownsburgchurch.info](mailto:mhallen@brownsburgchurch.info)

**We need to recognize the importance of male spiritual leadership in our families. Dads...how are you doing?**