

Introduction:

1. When looking at the title to this lesson, how do dads respond?
 - a. One dad says, “I never thought about teaching my kids about marriage.” You need to.
 - b. Another says, “I don’t teach my kids much; I bring them to church.” You need to do more.
 - c. A third says, “I teach them what God says.” There is more teaching needed, of a different kind.
2. Whether you have thought about it or not—you are teaching your kids about marriage by the way you respect marriage and by the way you interact with your family—and particularly your wife. Here are six things you are teaching even if you never open your mouth about these things.

The Lesson:

- I. You are teaching your kids about the permanence of marriage—or not.**
 - A. We must hold forth the model that says, “Good men stay.” God’s order from the beginning was that marriage be for as long as you both shall live, Matthew 19:6; Genesis 2:24.
 - B. This means no divorce, no running away from family responsibilities.
 1. Why so many divorces today? In part, because of so many divorces in the previous generation. The divorce plague began to sweep our nation in the 1960s. It peaked in the 80s.
 - a. Statistics consistently show that kids from divorced homes are more likely to divorce.
 - b. Your kids learn how to deal with conflicts from what they see in your marriage.
 - c. Some folks use the kids as an excuse. They say, “We fought all the time. It wasn’t good for the kids to see all that fighting.” End the fighting, not the marriage!
 2. Also, end the threats to divorce. Threats are often used as a manipulation technique.
 - C. We celebrate men who marry, have kids and stay! Teach kids that “I do” means something.
- II. You are teaching your kids love and appreciation for a wife—or not.**
 - A. The church is the finest part of God’s spiritual creation. Woman is the finest part of His physical creation. You may have once believed that. Do you believe it now? See Ephesians 5:25.
 - B. You have a treasure in your wife. Does she know how you value her? Don’t take her for granted. She needs praise and approval, Proverbs 31:28. Give her the security of knowing she is loved. That’s what real men do. That’s what real men teach their kids.
 - C. You are teaching your son how to treat a woman. You are teaching your daughter how she should be treated. Did you know she will probably marry someone like you? She may marry someone who will treat her the way you treat her mother. Are you OK with that?
- III. You are teaching your kids about sensitivity to family needs—or not.**
 - A. A real man—God’s man—is servant to his family and, in particular, to his wife, 1 Peter 3:7.
 1. “But, I get to be boss and everybody has to jump at my word.” What a warped view!
 2. Truth: He has responsibility to provide loving leadership, to direct and show the way.

3. He needs to know his wife's worries, fears and concerns and be sensitive to them.
 4. He leads with understanding, compassion and generosity. When his wife and kids speak, he listens and hears with his heart. He learns to speak "woman." That means flowers, cards, soft words and remembering special days—doing things just because you love her.
- B. Your sons learn sensitivity with a woman from a man. What they see in you they will likely do.

IV. You are teaching your kids about the need for cooperation in the home—or not.

- A. That is especially critical in regard to discipline. Moms and dads must be together with respect to disciplining kids. Without agreement, three things are very likely to happen:
1. First, your kids will quickly learn how to manipulate you, how to play one against the other.
 2. Second, your kids will grow up not really knowing what the rules (the boundaries) are.
 3. Third, your kids will probably imitate your lack of cooperation and constant disagreement when they get into their marriages. We must learn that our kids are likely to imitate us!
- B. Note that Ephesians 6:1-4 speaks of parents, but it focuses on the responsibility of dads! You cannot bring your kids up in the way of the Lord if you refuse to cooperate. Do it for the kids!

V. You are teaching your kids about the need for support from other men—or not.

- A. There are times when men desperately need help from others in marriage. We can't let pride stand in the way of seeking wise counsel, guidance, support and accountability
1. David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1) were friends who genuinely cared and looked out for one another and sought counsel from one another. Do you have a David or a Jonathan?
 2. What friend can you lean on for support? We need friends to help us see what is right and hold us accountable and correct us when we are not right, Proverbs 27:17.
- B. You teach a valuable life lesson to your kids when you show that you are wise enough to seek good counsel in your life. The best marriages come from men who have that wisdom.

VI. You are teaching your kids about the need for God in your home—or not.

- A. You can't reach your potential with respect to manhood until you reach the point where you acknowledge a need for God in your own life first—and then in the life of your family.
- B. Real men love Jesus! He is not for wimps and sissies! He was a man's man; real men nobly serve King Jesus, Revelation 17:14. We lead our families to serve the King, Joshua 24:15b.
- C. We teach our kids by our example. It is the best thing you can do for your wife and kids.

Conclusion:

1. Your boy is probably going to be much like you. While sons don't always turn out like dads, odds are he will treat his wife much like you treat your wife. Does that trouble you? Get this right!
2. Your little girl will likely grow up to marry a man much like you. You may say, "Oh, I hope she doesn't—she deserves better." Then doesn't your wife deserve better? She was once somebody's little girl. You need to be to your wife just like the man you want your daughter to marry!