

A photograph of firefighters in a field battling a large wildfire. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames rising into the air, creating a thick plume of smoke. Five firefighters are visible, wearing helmets and jackets, working to contain the fire. The scene is dramatic and highlights the danger of wildfires.

Three Things Fathers Can Do For Their Children

Love, love, love



The American Family Is Under Attack

INTRODUCTION

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- **From Focus On The Family...**
- Battered by high rates of **divorce** and **cohabitation**, **unwed child-bearing** and the push for so-called **same-sex "marriage"** and **civil unions**, marriage is in a state of crisis. Recent cultural changes without historical precedent have influenced an increasing number of Americans to view this fundamental institution as optional, disposable and open to redefinition. In this context of marital decline, political and ideological battles rage between those who view marriage as a transient human invention – ready for updating and revision – and those who regard marriage as natural and fundamental to humanity – essential to a flourishing civilization.

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- When one considers the social structure of civilization, **family is clearly the foundational unit** upon which church and government rest. Families are created and held together by the lifelong commitment of a man and a woman who live cooperatively and raise and nurture the children born to them. **Families are the building blocks** essential to the formation of a community, and strong social structure arises from the foundation many families provide.

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- Not only is marriage **vital** to society, the **benefits** of marriage for individual adults and children are well-documented. In general, married people **live longer**, spend **less time in the hospital**, have **higher incomes** and enjoy **greater emotional support**. Children raised by their mother and father are less **likely to live in poverty** or **drop out of school** and are more likely to **finish college**. They are also at **lower risk** for becoming sexually active in their teen years.

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- This beneficial, cohesive family unit, however, faces **unprecedented challenges** today, including **divorce, cohabitation, out-of-wedlock births** and **fatherlessness** – trends which contribute to lessened family, individual and community welfare. One study estimates that **divorce** and **unwed childbearing** alone cost U.S. taxpayers more than **\$112 million** a year. [1](#)

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- One key ingredient in a father-mother household is the presence and influence of two distinct genders – male and female. **Research and common sense tell us that girls and boys need role models of both genders, but research further reveals that fathers and mothers contribute uniquely to their children.** Dr. David Popenoe, author of *Life Without Father: Compelling New Evidence that Fatherhood and Marriage are **Indispensable** to the Good of Children and Society*, writes that, "The two sexes are different to the core, and each is **necessary** – culturally and biologically – for the **optimal development** of a human being."

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- Just as each gender is **important** for child development, the absence of one parent has **implications** for a child. For example, compared to children from intact homes, **children of divorce** are far more likely to **struggle academically**, live in **poverty**, engage in **drug and alcohol use** and other **high-risk behaviors**, commit **suicide**, and experience **psychiatric problems** and **relationship failure** in adulthood.

The American Family Is Under Attack!

- **Cohabitation** also presents **increased risks** for children. Most children in cohabitating homes live with their biological mother and not their biological father. **Numerous studies** find that children living in cohabitating situations are at **increased risk** for **sexual** and **physical abuse** and **violence**.

America's Family is Under Attack! It's Best Defense Is DAD!

- [The National Marriage Project](#) warns, "The evidence suggests that the most unsafe of all family environments for children is that in which the mother is living with someone other than the child's biological father."
- [Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey \(http://marriage.rutgers.edu/\)](http://marriage.rutgers.edu/)

Family Is Under Attack!



Family Is Under Attack!

- **Its Best Defense Is The Presence of DAD!**

Family Is Under Attack!

- **Its Best Defense Is The Presence of DAD!**
- **All The More If He Is A Christian DAD!**

Praise For The Presence Of The Father In The Home!



Praise For The Presence Of The Father In The Home!

- **One of the most fundamental, best and successful guarantees for a child to have a safe and blessed life is the presence of their biological father!**

Praise For The Presence Of The Father In The Home!

- **One of the most fundamental, best and successful guarantees for a child to have a safe and blessed life is the presence of their biological father!**
- **Amazingly, it is the presence of the biological father that most ensures emotional and physical wellbeing into the life of children.**

Praise For The Presence Of The Father In The Home!

- **One of the most fundamental, best and successful guarantees for a child to have a safe and blessed life is the presence of their biological father!**
- **Amazingly, it is the presence of the biological father that most ensures emotional and physical wellbeing into the life of children.**
- **Evidence strongly suggests the biological father is the best protector of the family.**

Three Things Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **LOVE, LOVE, LOVE:**

Three Things Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **LOVE:**

- Love Your God 

Three Things Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **LOVE:**

- Love Your God 

- Love Your Wife 

Three Things Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **LOVE:**

- Love Your God 

- Love Your Wife 

- Love Your Children 

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - **Not just any ordinary talk of love!**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - Not just any ordinary talk of love!
 - No! This is a “real” & “deep” all consuming love that touches all aspects of a man’s nature.

Men! Love God with your ALL!

“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” 29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ” (Mark 12:28-30, NIV).

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- In Jesus' day religion had lost its center
 - Judaism had lost its priorities
 - Much like our society & religion today is losing its center
 - *“They cluttered up their faith with hundreds of rules derived from traditional interpretations of biblical Laws. But somehow all these laws seemed just as important as all the others. **Don't spit on sand on the Sabbath (because you might inadvertently “plow a furrow”)** was treated with the same importance as **“love your neighbor.”** Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher's commentary*. Includes index. (628). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.*
 - Thus, Jesus reminds them of their priorities: **Love God, Love your neighbor!**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Jesus' words serve both ancient Israel and the contemporary church well:
 - Thus, Jesus reminds them of their priorities: ***Love God, Love your neighbor!***
 - ***“These things are more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”*** (Mark 12:33c, NIV)
 - **Relationship is more important than ritual in religion!**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - **Loving God with Your All**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- Loving God with Your All

- With all your **heart**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Love Your God

 - Loving God with Your All

 - With all your **heart**

 - *“There is in the NT a rich usage of **kardía** for a. **the seat of feelings, desires, and passions (e.g., joy, pain, love, desire, and lust...**”*

 - Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1995, c1985). *Theological dictionary of the New Testament*. Translation of: *Theologisches Worterbuch zum Neuen Testament*. (416). Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans.

Jesus at the Temple

- Some examples of Jesus' "heart love" for God:
- **ANGER –INDIGNATION; passion thinking about God**
- John 2:13 *"When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So **he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins** of the money changers and **overturned their tables.** 16 To those who sold doves he said, **"Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"***
- John 2:17 *His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." (John 2:13-17, NIV).*

Jesus looking over Jerusalem

- Some examples of Jesus' "heart love" for God:
- SORROW–TEARS (*moved by passion*)
- Luke 19:41 *"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."* (Luke 19:41-44, NIV).

Jesus at Lazarus' death

- Some examples of Jesus' "heart love" for God:
- **SORROW-TEARS** (*moved by passion*)
- *"When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, **he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.** 34 "**Where have you laid him?**" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 **Jesus wept.** 36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" (John 11:32-36, NIV).*

Jesus suffering for us

- Some examples of Jesus' "heart love" for God:
- SELF CONTROL – Thinking of others before himself (*controlling his passion*)
- *“When they hurled their insults at him, **he did not retaliate**; when he suffered, **he made no threats**. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him who judges justly**.
24 **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree**, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **by his wounds** you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:23-24, NIV).*

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - Loving God w/ Your All
 - With all your **heart**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- Loving God w/ Your All

- **With all your heart**

- **How are you revealing to your children that you love God with all your heart?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- Loving God w/ Your All

- **With all your heart**

- How are you revealing to your children that you love God with all your heart?
 - **This is not your deeds or works, this is the emotional part of the man.**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- Loving God w/ Your All

- **With all your heart**

- How are you revealing to your children that you love God with all your heart?
 - This is not your deeds or works, this is the emotional part of the man.
 - *Kardia, the seat of feelings, desires, and passions (e.g., joy, pain, love, desire, and lust...)*

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- Loving God w/ Your All

- **With all your heart**

- How are you revealing to your children that you love God with all your heart?
 - This is not your deeds or works, this is the emotional part of the man.
 - *Kardia, the seat of feelings, desires, and passions (e.g., joy, pain, love, desire, and lust...)*
 - **Are we man enough to show our feelings towards God and family?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - Loving God w/ Your All
 - With all your heart
 - With all your **soul**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - Loving God w/ Your All
 - With all your heart
 - With all your **soul**
- Soul is your **“life”**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - **Loving God w/ Your All**
 - **With all your heart**
 - **With all your **soul****
 - **Soul is your “life”**
 - **Is everything in your life revealing your love for God?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- **Loving God w/ Your All**

- **With all your heart**

- **With all your **soul****

- Soul is your “life”
 - Is everything in your life revealing your love for God?
 - **How so? (Recreation, movies, music, food, relationships?)**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - Loving God w/ Your All
 - With all your heart
 - With all your soul
 - With all your **mind**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**

- **Loving God w/ Your All**

- **With all your heart**

- **With all your soul**

- **With all your **mind****

- This is exactly what we think it is: it is our **intellectual & moral faculty** engaged in loving God through the pursuit of Scriptural knowledge.
 - This is **studying to show thyself approved**, a workman who needs not to be ashamed...; then **living it out with a decided moral integrity**.

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - **Loving God w/ Your All**
 - **With all your heart**
 - **With all your soul**
 - **With all your mind**
 - **With all your strength**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Love Your God**
 - **Loving God w/ Your All**
 - **With all your strength**
 - **This is your might**
 - **Your physical powers**
 - **Your indwelling strength!**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Loving God with all your **strength** (*the testing of your strength*)
- Like Paul:
- *“I have **worked** much harder, been in **prison** more frequently, been **flogged** more severely, and been **exposed to death** again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews **the forty lashes minus one**. 25 Three times I was **beaten with rods**, once I was **stoned**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent **a night and a day in the open sea**, 26 I have been **constantly on the move**. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?”*
- (2 Corinthians 11:23b-29, NIV).

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Loving God with all your **strength**
- Like Paul:
- *“2Co 4:8 We are **hard pressed** on every side, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not in despair; 9 **persecuted**, but not abandoned; **struck down**, but not destroyed. 10 **We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus**, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are **always being given over to death for Jesus' sake**, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 12 **So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”***
- (2 Corinthians 4:8-12, NIV).

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Loving God with all your **strength**
- Like Paul:
- *“To this end I **labor, struggling** with all his **energy**, which so **powerfully works in me.**”*
(Colossians 1:29, NIV).

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Fathers, are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Fathers, are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- **Are you growing in your ability to express the matters of your heart, feelings, emotions?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Fathers, are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- Are you growing in your ability to express the matters of your heart, feelings, emotions?
- **Is your soul (life) given in service to God?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Fathers, are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- Are you growing in your ability to express the matters of your heart, feelings, emotions?
- Is your soul (life) given in service to God?
- **Are you devoting yourself to studying God's word?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Fathers, are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- Are you growing in your ability to express the matters of your heart, feelings, emotions?
- Is your soul (life) given in service to God?
- Are you devoting yourself to studying God's word?
- **Are you making proper moral decisions & judgments in your life?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Fathers, are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- Are you growing in your ability to express the matters of your heart, feelings, emotions?
- Is your soul (life) given in service to God?
- Are you devoting yourself to studying God's word?
- Are you making proper moral decisions & judgments in your life?
- **Are you devoting all your strength to serving God?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Do your children see you serving God?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Do your children see you serving God?
- What sacrifices are you making that indicate to your children that God is your first love?

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Do your children see you serving God?
- What sacrifices are you making that indicate to your children that God is your first love?
- Is God giving way to baseball, etc?

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Do your children see you serving God?
- What sacrifices are you making that indicate to your children that God is your first love?
- Is God giving way to baseball, etc?
- **Or is baseball (etc.) giving way to God?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Do your children see you serving God?
- What sacrifices are you making that indicate to your children that God is your first love?
- Is God giving way to baseball, etc?
- Or is baseball (etc.) giving way to God?
- **If your children never hear you saying “no” to something of the world, so that you can say “yes” to God...what does that communicate?**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Father's, If You Really Want To Love & Bless Your Children...**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Father's, If You Really Want To Love & Bless Your Children...
- You WILL Love the Lord your God!

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- Father's, If You Really Want To Love & Bless Your Children...
- You will Love the Lord your God!
 - You will love God with all your heart!

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Father's, If You Really Want To Love & Bless Your Children...**
- **You will Love the Lord your God!**
 - You will love God with all your heart!
 - **You will love God with all your soul!**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Father's, If You Really Want To Love & Bless Your Children...**
- **You will Love the Lord your God!**
 - You will love God with all your heart!
 - You will love God with all your soul!
 - **You will love God with all your mind!**

Three Things That Fathers Can Do For Their Children

- **Father's, If You Really Want To Love & Bless Your Children...**
- **You will Love the Lord your God!**
 - You will love God with all your heart!
 - You will love God with all your soul!
 - You will love God with all your mind!
 - **You will love God with all your strength!**

A close-up photograph of a firefighter wearing a helmet with a blue light and a dark jacket. He is holding a young child with curly hair who is crying. The firefighter has a concerned expression. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**Three Things That Fathers Can Do
For Their Children**

**We May Save Not Only Our Children
We May Very Well Save Our Nation!**