

## **THE NEEDS OF A FAMILY**

- In a family there are many needs.
- These needs differ from day to day.
- It is important for every member of that family to understand each other's needs.
- A family united together in Christ is an unstoppable force.
- If the devil can use the needs of the family to bring offence, bitterness, or strife then he can disqualify a family from it's full potential in Christ.

### **James 3:16 (KJV)**

*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

- Dysfunctional families come into existence when strife shows up.

## **THE NEEDS OF A FATHER**

### 1. **Respect**

- A father must feel respected in his home from all members of the family.
- Respect to a man is his number one need.
- It is tied to his manhood and without it can cause him to feel like less of a man.

### 2. **Appreciation**

- Fathers are the financial leaders of their families.
- Showing appreciation for what they do makes them feel like a provider.
- When a father feels that his hard work and efforts are appreciated, it enables him to feel like the leader God designed him to be and he begins to begin to operate as so.

### 3. **Verbal Support/Esteem**

- Fathers need cheerleaders, not coaches.
- As a man, his ego plays an important role in a family.
- If he is always being told what to do, and treated as inferior in front of the children, he will never fully be able to lead his family to it's full potential.

- Having a mother/wife in the home, she has great influence over the decisions her husband makes.
- Many women in the Bible brought down their houses with their influence.
- Wives must always support the father as a leader and never over ride him as inferior.

4. ***Domestic Support***

- To a father, a dirty house is a sign of a lack of respect and dishonor.
- Men sometimes think according to works.
- To a man, his efforts at work define who is.
- When a father comes home and feels like the family is not pulling their weight, he immediately feels mistreated and unappreciated.

## **THE NEEDS OF A MOTHER**

1. ***A Spiritual Leader (Father)***

- This leader is a man of courage, conviction, commitment, compassion, and character.
- He takes the initiative in cultivating a spiritual environment for the family.
- He becomes a capable and competent student of God's Word and lives out before all a life founded on the Word of God.
- He leads his wife in becoming a woman of God, and he takes the lead in training the children in the things of the Lord.

2. ***Appreciation***

- Although society has painted us a picture that the mother's job is to clean, cook, and raise the children, appreciation is a must for a mother.
- Mothers need to feel that their hard work and time spent doing these things makes her valuable to the family.

3. ***Respect***

- Mothers need respect from their children and the father.

4. ***Family Time***

- Mothers, although they are always with the kids desire family time.
- Family time includes the father.
- Mothers desire a father that spends time with her

and the children, helping to shape and mold the lives of each member of that family.

5. **Alone Time**

-Mothers need alone time. This is time away from the children and the father.

-This does not just mean a few minutes to herself in the bathtub. This means time away from the home, doing things to help her relax and feel like a woman, not just a mom or a wife.

6. **Security**

-A mother needs to feel spiritually, financially, emotionally, and physically secure.

-A father plays 100% of this role.

## THE NEEDS OF A CHILD

### **Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)**

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

1. **Discipline**

-Kids need Godly discipline.

-Discipline is never to be done out of anger.

-Discipline should always bring light to the Word of God.

-A child should not only know that his/her actions were wrong, but they should also know what the Bible says about what they did.

-You are training them on how they will discipline their kids.

2. **Structure**

-Kids do not naturally have structure.

-Proper guidelines and rules will help children learn obedience, boundaries, and structure for their lives.

-Chaos is a sure breeding ground for rebellion.

3. **Family Time**

-You are training up a generation.

-Children need to see a family as a family.

-It's important to spend time together as a whole family, interacting with one another and learning each other.

4. **Individual Time With Parents**

-Children need interaction with both parents.

-Children take on the characteristics of their parents.

- Boys need to interact with fathers.
- This will give them their male instincts, mannerisms, and will help them relate to their gender.

5. ***Praise/Affirmation***

- Children need to feel admired.
- When boys or girls do not get praised or feel admired at the house through the family, they will search for it at school and with their friends.
- Girls need to feel admired by their fathers.

6. ***Acknowledgment***

- Children often seek the approval of their parents.
- Acknowledging their talents, successes, and hard work will shape a healthy self-esteem.

7. ***Security***

- Children need to feel protected. (spiritually, financially, physically, emotionally)
- Children should never take on the burdens of their parents. (finances, career, etc.)
- Children must know that when they open up their feelings and talk to their parent that the parent is listening and considerate of their feelings.
- As children get older they need guidance on proper money management. (tithe/offerings, saving, spending, etc.)

8. ***Active Father (if there is a father in the home)***

- Fathers play a critical role in the development of their children; however, many fathers are uncertain about the responsibilities and privileges associated with this role.
- Children need fathers who love and care for them on a consistent basis.
- The latest research indicates that fathers who are actively involved in raising their children can make a positive and lasting difference in their lives.
- In contrast, this same research reveals a number of potentially negative outcomes for children whose fathers are not involved.

## **20 REASONS WHY CHILDREN NEED AN ACTIVE FATHER.**

Being an active father:

### **1. Lets your child know that you love them.**

Love involves more than saying the words, "I love you." Fathers who love their children demonstrate their love by spending quality and quantity time together. Children who feel loved are more likely to develop a strong emotional bond with their father and a healthy self-esteem.

### **2. Provides your child with greater financial resources.**

Research clearly indicates that families with an active father are "better off" financially. This means that children with active fathers will be more likely to have access to resources that facilitate healthy development.

### **3. Provides your child with a positive male role model.**

Children, regardless of gender, need positive male and female role models. Children tend to model behavior (positive and negative) that they witness on a consistent basis. Active fathers can promote positive behaviors by setting a proper example for their children.

**4. Provides your child with emotional support.** In addition to financial support, children also need emotional support from their parents. Active fathers listen and support their children when they experience joy, sadness, anger, fear, and frustration. Fathers who support their children emotionally tend to raise children who are more in-tune with the needs of others.

### **5. Enhances your child's self-esteem.**

Self-esteem refers to how a person feels about himself. Children with high self-esteem tend to be happier and more confident than children with low self-esteem. Active fathers promote their children's self-esteem by being fully involved in their lives and letting them know that they are highly valued.

**6. Enhances your child's intellectual development.**

Children who are raised with actively involved fathers tend to score higher on measures of verbal and mathematical ability, and also demonstrate greater problem-solving and social skills.

**7. Provides your child with guidance and discipline.**

From infancy, children need proper guidance and discipline. Active fathers play an important role in teaching their children proper behavior by setting and enforcing healthy limits.

**8. Gives your child someone to play with.**

One of the primary ways that fathers bond with their children is through play. According to researchers, there are qualitative differences in the ways fathers and mothers play with their children. Fathers tend to use a more physical style of play that offers a number of benefits to children, including enhanced cognitive ability (the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment, & reasoning).

**9. Provides your child with someone to talk to when they have questions.**

Young children are full of questions. This natural curiosity helps them learn about their environment. Active fathers can be a valuable source of information for children who are seeking answers to life's important questions.

**10. Increases your child's chances for academic success.**

Children whose fathers are actively involved in their lives are more likely to achieve academic success than children whose fathers are not actively involved. These academic benefits appear to extend into adulthood.

**11. Provides your child with an alternative perspective on life.**

Research indicates that men and women often differ in their parenting styles; however, one style is not necessarily better than the other. Instead, it can be healthy for children to be exposed to different perspectives on life, such as a father's.

**12. Lowers your child's chances for early sexual activity.**

Children with actively involved fathers are less likely to engage in early sexual activity, thus reducing their chances for teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

**13. Lowers your child's chances for school failure.**

Children with actively involved fathers are less likely to drop out of school than children with uninvolved fathers.

**14. Lowers your child's chances for youth suicide.**

Children with actively involved fathers are less likely to commit suicide than children with uninvolved fathers.

**15. Lowers your child's chances for juvenile delinquency.**

The benefits of having an active father throughout a child's early years extend into the teen years as well. Children with active fathers are less likely to commit juvenile crimes than children with inactive fathers.

**16. Lowers your child's chances for adult criminality.**

The chances that a child will commit crimes as an adult also diminish when he grows up with an actively involved father.

**17. Provides your child with a sense of physical and emotional security.**

One of the major benefits that fathers can provide to their children by being actively involved is a sense of security (physical and emotional). By being actively involved in a child's life, a father promotes a trusting relationship. The child does not have to worry about being abandoned.

**18. Facilitates your child's moral development.**

Children need a moral compass to guide them when they face difficult moral choices. Fathers, like mothers, help children to develop a sense of right and wrong that serves as a foundation for establishing moral character.

**19. Promotes a healthy gender identity in your child.**

Boys and girls benefit from having healthy role models from both sexes. Research points to the fact that mothers and fathers socialize their children in different ways.

Fathers can help their children, especially boys, to develop a healthy sense of what it means to be a male.

**20. Helps your child learn important life skills.**

Most of the essential life skills that children need to survive are learned within the home. Fathers have a unique opportunity to teach their children valuable skills that will enable them to grow up to be healthy and productive adults. Fathers, your children need you! Make a commitment to be an active father. Your children will greatly benefit from your involvement in their lives.

**THE FUNCTIONAL FAMILY**

- When a family understands each other's needs, they can then begin to strengthen the union of that family.
- Whether you have a family, or desire one, a functional family is an unstoppable force.
- Take the time to learn the needs of those inside your house and watch your family function the way God designed it to.