



*Ladies of Grace*  
**Bible Studies for Women**  
*The Ministry of Womanhood Series*

*Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.*

## What The Bible Has To Say About Raising Sons

I am excited (as usual!) to bring you these next few lessons on raising children. We will begin with raising sons, and even though I have never raised a son, I am thrilled by the instruction that God has left for us in His Word about how they should be raised. God's Word is so complete, and as we study it and apply it, we find that the truth it brings in our life offers us much victory and peace. There will be four parts to our "raising sons" series, and this first part is going to focus on exactly what the Bible has to say about how we should raise our sons.

Please turn with me to Psalm 144 and let's read the whole chapter. In this passage of scripture, we find that King David is begging God for mercy for himself and for his nation. Why? Because he knows the kind of sinful state they are in. He begins by lifting up the character of God, then follows by reminding himself of the sinfulness of man, and then he does something very 'humanlike' ~ he asks God to deliver him and his people from becoming like the 'strange children' that surround him and to make the children around him into something better. Sons are the very children that he talks about, and what he asks of God is this: "*That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth*".

What does David mean by this? He means that He wants his sons to grow up and become mature young men. What are the signs of maturity? The same signs that we see in a plant that is grown up: strength, well-nourished, and fruitful. And this is the same thing that God wants for our sons as well.

I would like to give you a glimpse of what a mature Christian man looks like by taking you to I Timothy 3 and Ephesians 5:23-6:4.

In I Timothy chapter three, we see the epitome of what God considers to be a mature Christian man ~ the man called to be a preacher and a deacon in the local Bible believing church.





According to the Bible, what are some of the characteristics of a mature Christian man?

Let's list them:

- ◆ Blameless
- ◆ Married to one woman
- ◆ Vigilant
- ◆ Sober
- ◆ Good behavior
- ◆ Hospitable
- ◆ Teacher
- ◆ Self-controlled
- ◆ Peaceful
- ◆ Content (not greedy)
- ◆ Patient
- ◆ Gentle
- ◆ One that rules his own house well
- ◆ Obedient children
- ◆ Humble
- ◆ Love for wife
- ◆ Head of the family
- ◆ Provider of the family
- ◆ Sanctifier of the family
- ◆ Lover of himself
- ◆ Nourisher
- ◆ Cherisher
- ◆ Independent
- ◆ Honored by children
- ◆ Kind to his children
- ◆ Disciplinarian

This is a long list, isn't it? And yet, if we really think about it, all of these mature qualities could be combined to form the following shorter list:

1. Wise
2. Honest
3. Loving
4. Responsible
5. Productive

As we can see from just these two passages, raising our sons to become mature like "plants that are grown up" is a tall order, isn't it? It sure is, and it is something that is going to take a lot of time and training to do. But by God's grace, and with His help, it can be done, just like those that have gone before us have done it.

*"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8*



## *The Ministry of Womanhood Series*



Before we close, I would like to say this: ***The whole goal in raising sons is to grow them up to become mature in the Lord, not perfect for the world.*** Too many moms are worried about making sure their son is perfect at this or that, and they miss the whole goal of raising the kind of man that will please the Lord ~ one that is balanced and mature.

Next week we are going to look at the path that our child training must follow if our sons are going to grow up and become the kind of mature men that God would want them to be.

The Ladies of Grace Bible Study is written and taught by Mrs. Julie Fink and is a ministry of the Grace Baptist Church, 501 N. State St., Lockport, IL 60441; David M. Fink, Pastor. Mrs. Fink can be reached by writing to her at the church or by e-mailing her at: [ladiesofgrace@cleaninter.net](mailto:ladiesofgrace@cleaninter.net)

# My Dad, A Portrait of a Mature Christian Man

By Kina M. Fink

My Father is my hero, my friend, my security, my correction officer, and my example. Okay, you've probably already caught on to the fact that I think my Dad is a pretty neat guy. My Dad is a balanced Christian man. He looks tough, and acts gentle. He is very manly, but dresses very nicely. He is a hard worker, but one of the most fun people I know. He could sell you the shirt off of your back (and make you happy that you bought it), but I also know he would give you the shirt off *his* back if you needed it.

I guess one of the reasons I think so highly of my Dad is that he helped me in so many ways growing up. My Dad did a lot to build my self-esteem as a child. He paid for lessons for ice-skating to flute playing, and everything in between. He also was my personal teacher. He coached our soccer and basketball, spotted in gymnastics, taught me to swim, and even taught me to play a plastic trumpet. (We played taps every night before bed!) I have beautiful memories of sitting at the dinner table every single night going over my cursive letters with my Dad when I was in grade school. Dad would make me write them over and over and over, and then he would critique the letters. Even so, he was never harsh, and NEVER did I feel like a failure in his eyes. It was never "you succeed and I'll love you more". I always felt success was fun, but not necessary to my being loved. The two were entirely separate in my little mind. Now that I am an adult, I am amazed that Dad found time to do all this. He was a very busy man, but never too busy for our family.

My Dad was a responsible man. He did not make triple digit salaries, but he always made sure that his family lived in a clean, safe neighborhood. He always wanted us to have a beautiful home, one we would be proud to bring our friends to. While I was young, I took all this for granted. As I got older, I understood that he wanted to provide for us in a way that would make us feel safe and secure (his own childhood never provided this). This only made me respect him so much more. My Dad *never* complained about anything in his past. He just possessed the determination to succeed and excel on his own. My Dad has not ever had a bitter spirit. This is why he has been a success. Well, back to the subject . . . as I said before, my Father has been an excellent provider. At times, He has worked three jobs to make ends meet. I am not exaggerating when I say that he never complains about work either. He really NEVER complains. It's hard to believe, but true. He is always up earlier than any one in our house, and usually is up later also. I do not know how



My Dad, Pastor David Fink

he can keep it up day after day, but he does.

My Dad is a holy man. It's funny, even when Dad may not have been saved or close to God, he made sure that his house was a good environment for us children. We did not have questionable movies, books, magazines, alcohol, cigarettes, bad people, etc. brought in our home. I remember as a kid, when Dad would just come home and watch COPS on the TV. He thought that the TV was becoming too much of a distraction in his life, so he got rid of it. I mean, it was just COPS! He was committed to not hurting

his family and his own spirit in this way. My Dad today does not ever watch TV, not even sports! He loves sports, but he just has better things to do with his time. My Dad lives like he preaches. Now that is the greatest security a man can give his family. Not only does my Dad not go to the movie theater to watch Hollywood movies, but he doesn't go to blockbuster to get them hot off the press either! I am convinced that many a child has gone wayward because of their disgust of the double standards lived out in their homes! This makes God a joke! I am so thankful to have a Dad (and Mom!) that lived right in the home, and out of the home. He wanted Sabrina and I to be innocent concerning evil. He sheltered us from the harsh realities of the world, without keeping us sheltered from having to function in the world.

My Dad was a good disciplinarian. Now, do not get me wrong, he was a HARD disciplinarian. If asked who I would rather get a spanking from, it was not Dad. That belt was huge and he AIMED. Dad was a calm spanker though. He was a calm discipliner. I never could shock my Dad. Or, at least he made it appear that way. His philosophy was, "Kid's do dumb things. It is my job to make it hurt so they do not do the dumb thing again." He was in control. I wanted to please my parents so bad, growing up. I think a lot of this was because of their wise correction. It is wise to correct calmly. When Dad would get mad, he would always wait until he cooled off to do anything about it, and then he'd apologize for being angry. I appreciated this. It made me never want to make him angry again. It was easy to forgive Dad, because he was always quick to forgive me.

I hope that this has given you a little glimpse of the greatness of someone that I consider to be a mature, Christian man. I am glad I could honor him in this little way, because he never wants to have the glory. My Dad is a really neat guy!

