

The Role of the Man

All men have an opportunity to do something great and amazing in life. They have a chance to be that rare man who takes on the challenge of doing what is right with both commitment and resolve. They are the ones who do that which is hard, who protect those who need protecting, and provide for those who need provision. They are the men who stand by their wives, protect their children, and take care of their own. They are the men of great character who are looked up to by others. They are the men who lead and protect their families.

A Chance to Be More

Many men of today would not be described as “great men” who “protect and lead” their families. Great men are truly rare. What about you? Are you a man who will protect and lead your family in doing what is right? Before you answer this question, let’s look at what it means to protect and lead.

Protector

A man is the protector of his family. If you have a spouse and/or children, it is your job to protect them from anything that would harm them. In many cases, this is easy and makes sense. If an intruder were to break into your home, it would be your job to stop them and protect the family.

In some cases though, protecting your family is not always so obvious. There are many things that will cause them harm from which they will need protection. For example, as a man, it is your job to protect your family from the dangers of pornography. It is also your job to protect your children from drugs, abuse, laziness, bullying, being a bully, hate, selfishness, and much more.

For some men, protection also means protection from yourself. If you have violent tendencies, you need to “protect” your family by getting counseling. If you fight with your wife, you need to protect her and your children by learning to love instead. If you get drunk or use drugs, you need to protect your family by stopping immediately.

***Being the protector of your family is more than locking the door at night.
Being the protector means finding and removing anything that can cause your family physical or emotional harm.***

Leader

A man also needs to be the leader in his home. Many people think this means the man needs to be the person who tells everyone else what to do. But being a leader is much different from that.

A man who is a good leader starts with leading by example. This means that you may have to get up earlier and stay up later than others in your home. It means you need to show more love, give more mercy, be more involved, and spend more time. Being a leader starts by being a good example of what you want others to become.

Being a leader also means you take responsibility – “the buck stops here.” If something goes wrong, you take the initiative to fix it. This is where many men decide they don’t want to be a leader. It may seem like it is much easier to run from a problem than deal with it. But a real man, a man who wants to make a difference, will stand up in the hard times and work through them. Being a leader in your home is not always easy, it is not always rewarding, but it is always right.

Where do I start?

Marriage can be hard work. It takes time, maturity, empathy, love and understanding. Are you ready to be the protector and leader in your home? It is an awesome job that is more important than almost any other in the world. Here are some suggestions for what you can do to be a leader and protector to your spouse and children:

- **Make a commitment.** What your spouse and your children need most is you. Make a commitment to work on the relationship even when you feel like giving up. Decide ahead of time that you will be willing to do the big things to keep your marriage healthy. These big things may include counseling, moving, quitting a job, ending relationships or standing up to your family.
- **Lead with love and grace.** There are good leaders and bad leaders. To be a good leader you need to give love freely to your spouse and children. Never change your love because of how they act. Your love should always be unconditional. To have a strong and healthy marriage you need to start by claiming responsibility for your own feelings. Your spouse's actions cannot make you feel anything.
- **Spend the time.** We have time we can control and time we can't. Be a leader by showing your family you care for them by giving them as much time as possible.
- **Watch out for danger.** As the protector of your home, you need to watch closely for anything that could harm your wife or children. If they are watching movies that contain extreme violence or sexual content, turn them off and get them out of the house. If you smoke, and then see your children wanting to smoke, it's time to give it up.
- **Know your family.** You need to spend time talking with your wife and children. You can be the center of your kids' universe just by caring for them with love and appropriate discipline. If there is fighting and problems and you need to end the patterns of fights and problems, choose to react correctly. Understand that there are feelings behind what is being said. This will free you, the husband, to understand and empathize with your wife. Choose to see your wife as the person that you love and then respond with love to the need that she has.
- **Break the mold.** Have you ever said to yourself, "I don't want to be like my father," yet you find yourself parenting just like he did? This is because fathers teach sons both good and bad ways to parent as they grow up. Stop and evaluate what your own father did right, and what he did poorly. Break the mold, when you need to.
- **Work through failure.** Sometimes it seems unfair that you are the one trying to offer love and support, but you are only responsible for your own actions not anyone else's. You cannot be perfect. You will mess up. That is also part of being a leader. When you do something wrong, apologize (even to your children if they were hurt by you) and then move on. Remember it next time, and do not repeat the same mistake. As long as you keep trying to lead and protect with love and grace, you are still on the right track.