

A FATHER'S INFLUENCE

“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” (Malachi 4:6)

Bill Haughton, president of a large construction firm, had hired and managed thousands of employees. He was asked, “When you are thinking of hiring an employee - especially a man - what do you look for?” His answer may surprise you. He said, “I look primarily at the relationship between the man and his father. If he felt loved by his dad and respected his authority, he’s likely to be a good employee.”

Haughton may have been familiar with the biblical story of Eli. A priest of Israel, Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Eli apparently failed to discipline his children when they were young; the two sons did not respect their father. They rebelled against him and against the Word of God, appropriating the people’s animal sacrifices for their own meals and threatening anyone who resisted them (I Samuel 2: 12-17). When Eli heard about what his sons were doing, he spoke to them, but they ignored his warnings (I Samuel 2:23-25). Their actions offended God, eventually bringing on judgment (I Samuel 3:11-13) and death (I Samuel 4:17).

Dad, never underestimate the incredible influence you have on your children. It can make the difference between disaster and lives that are successful and pleasing to Him.

Before you say good night...

How did your dad influence the person you’ve become today?

What kind of impact do you think you’re having on your kids?

Are you the kind of father God wants you to be?

“Heavenly Father, Almighty God, thank You for the privilege of fatherhood. I want so much to lead my children onto right paths for their lives. Despite my sometimes inadequate efforts, let my kids achieve the holy plan You’ve set out for them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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