

FATHER'S: HOW TO BE A GODLY INFLUENCE IN A WICKED WORLD

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"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth."

Genesis 6:8-10

I would like to speak this morning on the subject of: Fathers, How to be a Godly Influence in a Wicked World. The word of God clearly shows that Noah was a godly influence in the wicked world in which he lived in and it also teaches us that he was a godly father. Since creation God has created four basic institutions, (1) the kingdom of God, (2) the family, (3) government and (4) the church which was ushered in the New Testament times. The Apostle Paul informs us in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*" In other words let us not be ignorant that the Devil, Satan himself that wicked one enjoys destroying these institutions. He knows that he cannot touch the kingdom of God, but he can afflict those in the kingdom of God and he can destroy the home, that is, the family which will affect the other two, that is, government and the church. May God help us be the men He wants us to be in order to affect the generation in which we live in! There are four things that stand out about the godly father Noah:

I. Noah Was A Saved Man.

II. Noah Was A Sanctified Man.

III. Noah Was A Steadfast Man

IV. Noah Was A Sincere Man.

As we consider the life of Noah this morning we see that he was a godly influence to his family, that is, to his wife, to his sons and also to his generation! Just a reminder to all of us here this morning that we are responsible for the generation in which we live in. This is a blessed story of a common man who stood alone in his generation. This is a story of how God affected a common, ordinary normal person in a day when humanity had progressed itself into a wicked society where sin ran rampant without any restrained that the word of God says in Genesis 6:5-8, "*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* 6 *And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*" This almost sounds like America. I don't say this because I hate America, no but because I love America and I care for America. This

country was founded on Christian principles and it is so sad that this country has totally removed itself from these godly principles. Unless this country wakes up and understands that we desperately need God, we will find ourselves in a slippery slope without God whose end is but judgment. How sad that America has taken God out of its government, out of its schools, out of its homes and sad to say even some churches have removed God from their services and have exchange the truth with lies based on secular humanism embedded in a godless philosophy. The end result of a godless nation is that every imagination of the thoughts its people in their hearts are only evil continually. The thing is that you will never be able to stand before God and say I didn't know this; you cannot use ignorance as an excuse because you are being challenged to make a difference in our day, by standing for God.

Now, Noah lived in a wicked and perverse generation. Noah's age was no different from ours except that he did not have the modern things we have but don't fool yourselves that we have progressed or advanced into a better generation, yes maybe we have better technology in this computer age of the world wide web; we have more knowledge, great medical progress and development, but at best we are all but depraved sinners. We are no different than in the days of Noah, man is as wicked and perverse as in Noah's time. One writer says, *"Sin had reached its zenith. Sin was everywhere; sin was the appetite, desire, debauchery and drive of the human race. It was so wicked that God Himself repented that He had made man. Man who was created in the image and likeness of God had become repulsive and abhorrent to the Creator."* This is why we should emulate Noah and take a stand in our day and time, even if it means standing alone for God. Regardless of the age in which we live we must take a stand for God even if it means standing alone. We must have the mindset that Christ said we should have and that is, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Matthew 6:33. Man can mock, ridicule, scoff, poke fun at the Bible and consider it as being antiquated and out of date, but it is the heart and driving force of true believers. The Word of God is the rule of our faith and practice. Therefore as Noah, we simply have to believe what God has to say to us in His reveal Word. We must trust God and believe what His Word teaches us, regarding Himself, man and salvation. From Genesis to Revelation we have the revealed will of God for our lives. If we do not understand the times of Noah we will not understand the importance of being Godly men, yea Godly fathers in such a wicked society. This message is for all the men in this auditorium, not just the ones who profess to be Christians, even those of you who are lost, I plead with you, throw down your arms of rebellion against God and bow the knee to Christ and confess Christ as your Lord and Savior. Make a difference in this society which we live in because it begins with you as a man, God has called you to be the spiritual leaders of you home, to lead your families in the way of God, to be the godly husband, to be the godly father, yea to be the godly leader of the HOME! Not one male figure in this auditorium is exempt from this; you want to know what

God's will is for your life well this is it! Follow God and save yourselves and your family from this untoward generation. This is what Noah did and this is what God calls you to do, listen to this familiar text, Hebrews 11:7, "*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*" You are called to save yourselves; that is, in Jesus Christ then saved your families the same way in Christ Jesus, by being an example and faithful follower of Jesus Christ. This does not mean it will happen overnight, but please understand this, it starts with you, but if you drop the ball and ignore this it will affect not only you but your whole family.

This does not mean that Noah was a sinless man without any faults, but that he had some godly qualities about him that made up his character. He had his shortcomings, his faults, his own personal issues, his inadequacies, his sins and his problems but in all this he sought to be a godly man, a just man, a man of faith, yea a man of righteousness. This basically brings us to our first point:

I. Noah Was A Saved Man.

Genesis 6:8 says, "*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*" This is the only reason that made Noah different than those around him, not that he smarter, wiser, influential or better than anyone else, no at best he was depraved like his whole generation, but grace made a difference in his life, no not religion, but his relationship with God by being born again or regenerated by the Spirit of God, grace birth Him into the kingdom of God, grace is what change him, grace is what made him a new person, grace is what saved him, Noah found grace or if you wish found salvation in the eyes of the LORD! Not in himself, his strength or his freewill nor in religion, but in God. Again, the effects of grace brought forth repentance and faith in the life of Noah. We saw the wickedness and violence that prevailed in his time, but because of grace being bestowed upon Noah, he would be different, because, "... *where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*" Romans 5:21.

Now, Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD and it affected him so that he was different than others, not because there was something good found in him, no, but because God in grace change his life. We must also understand that it was not Noah but God Himself that exposed man for what man really was and in Genesis 6:5, "*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" God sees what is in our hearts; He sees every evil deed and every evil thought. Man tries his best to hide or disguise this in their pride by denying this. One of the reasons God shows us our sins is to prepare us for His mercy, this is the essence of His great love for those He saves. But man in his hardened heart will not believe this until

God in grace removes the spiritual scales from his eyes to see his own heart. When God works this in the heart notice what happens, *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. (31) Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.”* Ezek.36:26-27 & 31.

This is hard for man to understand, because they don't see themselves as God sees them. They are self-deceived and deceived by the Devil. This is a twofold deception that is disastrous and devastating to our souls. Man is spiritually blind and doesn't even know it. May God be pleased to open your eyes to see yourself as God sees you!

Again, Noah because of grace was a Christian, a follower of God, a husband, a father, a hard worker. He lived in a wicked society and sought to maintain his integrity and protect his family. His name means rest or comfort. We are told in Peter that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, that is, he was a distinguished preacher and patriarch. This blessed example in the great deluge of this world was the son of Lamech. Noah was the ninth in descent after Adam and was the father of Ham, Shem and Japheth. In other words somewhere or about 11 centuries after the creation of Adam and Eve was Noah born. When Noah was graced by God we are not told, but what we are told is that when he was 500 years old God told him and warned him of the impending doom that was to come in 120 years by a massive flood. At the end of chapter 5 starting at verse 28 we read to 6:9. Thus, Noah lived in a depraved wicked and perverse generation and again let us not deceive ourselves to think that we have advanced into a better generation. We are no different than in the days of Noah, man is as wicked and perverse as in Noah's time. This is why we need emulate Noah and take a stand in our day and time, even if it means standing alone for God. Noah could have compromise and lived complacently and what if Noah has not counted the cost to live for God, he would have died like the others, but he chose to stand for God even if it meant to stand alone for God. It was in these qualities that we see his great achievement in being a successful father, because he cast his lot with God and not with the world. One of the end results of his accomplishment is that as a father he saw every member of his house saved. This does not mean that we are failures if everyone in our families is not saved, but that God in His great wisdom was pleased to save his whole family. How did all this start? Because he was a saved man, Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD!

II. Noah Was A Sanctified Man.

Secondly, we see that Noah was a Sanctified Man, that is, Noah was a just man. No question that Noah stood out in his generation because the Scriptures say, *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”* Hebrews 11:7. Again, this all started because Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD, and the effects of this particular grace is seen in the life of Noah. What I would want to consider this morning is not only forgiveness by Grace but also fruit by grace. The fruit of grace is seen in the fact that Noah was a just man, perfect and walked with God. Noah was a just man but this by no means teaches that he was spotless or impeccable or without sin, but that he had such a godly testimony that he was just, perfect and a righteous man who walked with God. Is this not the testimony we want to have, that we walked with God in righteousness, perfect and just before our family and friends, no not sinless perfection but hearts filled with conviction and character cemented in commitment. There is too much complacency and compromise in the Christendom of our day, may we stand out as Noah, even if it means standing alone for God. I remember a preacher once said, *“Could it be that God has called us to be the Noah’s of our day.”*

Now, we also need to understand that it was God that said that Noah was just, not Noah somehow exalting himself, God said he was just because God in grace justified him. This is the first time the word just is mentioned in the Scriptures. I believe it has a two-fold meaning. It refers to his justification before God. Remember Romans 5:1 says, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Justification means we have been declared righteous by God, in other words, justification has to do with man’s standing before God. Man does not have the power or self-will to stand before a righteous God on his own. Thus, justification deals with God imputing our sins to Christ and with God imputing the righteousness of Christ on us. This means again that justification deals with being declared righteous before God. Noah was a just man not because he made himself just, but because God made him just. God made Noah just and therefore Noah was a just man. This word just also means righteous. Noah was a righteous man, a just man in his generation. He was righteous by imputation and he was righteous by practice in his lifestyle, he was a preacher of righteousness. 2 Peter 2: 5. *“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, **a preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.”* He no longer lived in accordance to the world’s standards and philosophies but according to the commandment of God. In Gen.6:22 it says *“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”* Noah was justified by the grace of God and was therefore just in his dealings with man. He was honest, sincere, without blame and upright. In other words the grace of God distinguished Noah from the rest of the world and had saved him from his own sins and corruption. Noah was conformed to a holy standard in his life. Noah by faith

believed God and took Him at His Word, while the rest of the world remained in wickedness and violence. He who was crooked became straight!

Noah was the salt and light of the earth seeking to preserve his family against all the onslaught of the world. John Phillips writes: "*With the world crumbling around him, that giant figure towered above his times, hewn out of granite, standing like a lonely monolith pointing to the sky.*" In a wicked generation that had exhausted the longsuffering of God there was one man who stood out as a bright and shining light for the God whom he served in that dark immoral generation in which he lived.

This teaches us that no matter how bad, how wicked and how evil things are around us one can stand for God. Noah found grace in the eyes of God and it was effectual and it is seen in his just walk before God and man. He lived a righteous life that condemned the world around him. Learn from this that it doesn't not matter how your neighbor lives, how your co-worker lives, how your spouse's live, how your parents live, how your children live you as an individual must live for God, be light and salt to this dying dark world. If you are the only one in your home, your school, your workplace, you live for God. Take a stand for God! Yes, they will make fun of you, ridicule you and perhaps distance themselves from you, but God will be faithful to you and He will remain by your side at all costs. So live for God! Stand for God! Do not give in, do not give up but be faithful to maintain a righteous live before the world. You might be the only gospel people hear or see. This leads us to our 3rd point:

III. Noah Was A Steadfast Man

Not only was Noah a just or righteous man, but he was also perfect. Now this word can scare us because of what we think it means. Remember this is not what Noah wrote of himself, no, this is what God said of him. I doubt it very much Noah would use that word to describe himself. We think the word perfect means faultless or flawless, to be without sin, to be impeccable. But this is not what this word means. Noah still had the residue of sin in him all you have to do is read of his drunkenness in chapter 9, not now, later on in your private readings. This is why I believe in the Bible so much because it exposes the sins of even the most righteous persons we read in the Scriptures. The word perfect means complete or sound. In some versions it is translated, blameless. In other words he was sold out to God, to serve Him supremely regardless of the cost. This means Noah was a steadfast man, he was unwavering, resolute and committed to the cause of God, this is what it means he was perfect and he was dependable and dedicated to God, thus spiritually mature. Not perfect as without sin, but perfect in that he was fully committed and steadfast for the cause of God. He was not sinless but he was blameless in his generation. The word perfect also means, upright. This gives the picture that Noah live in close relationship with God. In other words

his whole heart was engaged in the business of serving God. Noah was blameless in the sense that there was no imbalance in his spiritual life. Now I know that none of us likes to be judge, but if you call yourself a Christian, let me remind you that there are those around you who are watching you. You are being tried and convicted in hearts of those who see your lifestyle to see how you really do live. Noah was uncontaminated and unaffected by the world. In a day when everyone else was corrupt and wicked Noah was living a committed and dedicated life towards God, thus he was perfect. There was nothing said of Noah or heard of Noah where one could point to him and say you are compromising the things of God, you are walking in error, you are propagating false doctrine, no, he was steadfast, loyal and faithful to God. The Bible says in James 1:27, *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”* Like Noah, we must keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Noah was perfect in his generation; he was unblemished in his conduct, pure in his conversation, unspotted by the world and unaffected by all the people in which he lived.

In Noah’s heart and life God was his master and Jehovah was his Lord. He renounced all his autonomy and was deeply dedicated to Him. Maybe I’m speaking to someone who is on the verge of throwing in the towel, don’t do it, persevere and continue, don’t let Satan deceive you, *“...let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”* Galatians 6:9. Or maybe there is one on the edge and threshold of laying hold of God for salvation, but you are wavering and undecided limping between two opinions, loving God or loving the world? Undecided if you want to be redeemed or continue to be deceived? What will you do? Will you bow the knee and be committed to Christ totally and own Him as your Lord? Are you willing to give everything up for Christ? Will you not give your heart to Christ this morning and quit fighting against God? This matter needs to be brought to head, what will you do? Will you serve God or the world? In the end all that will matter when we die is did we serve Christ? Did we live for Christ? Noah lived in a perverse, vicious and disobedient generation and by faith trusted God. How about you, what will you do?

Noah by faith knew his God, his commandments and he knew the doctrines and whole heartily obeyed God. He was content, he was trusting God, he was joyful and peaceful and he had a blessed assurance of salvation and could with a clear conscience say with the Apostle Paul, *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”* 2 Tim.1:12.

Consider this quote, *“Again Noah was blameless among the people of his time. Now that is very significant because Moses in these chapters has been giving to us a portrait of the people of Noah’s time. They were an evil generation; in particular there was violence everywhere. We are told that Noah lived amongst them for 120 years, and he was all alone except for his family. He was the only Jehovahist in the*

world. He had no network of ark-builders who occasionally had a convention and cheered one another up with stirring sermons. He lacked any human encouragement at all. He received no help from the world only scorn and ridicule and hostility and yet he was blameless before them all.” In all this Noah was perfect, yea he was steadfast, this writer continues, “I am saying this for one reason only, that it is so easy to come and say, “If only you knew the circumstances in which I have to live, and the place at which I work, and the atmosphere in which I pursue my calling, then you would understand how difficult it is to be a Christian. You would excuse my little imperfections. If only I had some other men and women, some children my age to support me, then I would shine for the Lord. So you must make some allowances for my falls and inconsistencies. I say to you that here is Noah and he was perfect among the people of his time, despite all their indifference and hostility and antagonism he lived blamelessly in that environment.” Noah was not seeking to please Noah; he was seeking to please God. He was not one obsessed with his own rights like the Christianity of this 21st century. He didn’t complain grumbled, protest, murmur, and moan and so forth, he simply behaved PERFECTLY, that is blameless, being sound and complete in fulfilling his duty to his God and he did this for 120 years. How many of us can go a year without complaining to God about something? How about a month, a week or even a day? Noah did not have Bible conferences to attend to encourage him. He didn’t have a radio shows or some other means to hear sermons on how to walk with God and be complete. He didn’t have bookstores to go to look for books to help how to live godly in an ungodly world. How to raise a family in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation? He didn’t have a network of Christian friends to help and build him up. In all this he stood alone for God and God would say of him, he was perfect, blameless and righteous in his generation. What will God write or say about us? This is what God said about Noah, not Noah himself, but God, “...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” This brings us to our 4th and last point:

IV. Noah Was A Sincere Man.

Not only was Noah a just and righteous man, not only was Noah a perfect and blameless man, but **he was a man that walked with God**. May God help to emulate these qualities found in Noah! After setting forth these two blessed virtues found in Noah, that is, that Noah was righteous and perfect Moses explains to us that these qualities were the result of his walking with God. Here we see the relationship and fellowship, the intimacy of their union. Here we also see the continuity and consistency of the relationship; it was a daily walk with God in which Noah depended on God. Here we see the faith of Noah, remember, “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*” Hebrews 11:7 Faith is the strength of our walk, faith is that which oils the soul to keep it running. If the people of Noah’s day really became aware of the flood that was coming, they might have obeyed, but their obeying would be only out of fear of punishment. The motivation of Noah was not fear, but faith, by faith Noah... I know that it says he was moved by fear, but the word fear there means reverence not some slavish fear.

Thus, the motivation of Noah in obeying God was out of faith. He walked by faith not by sight.

We have seen how that Noah was uncontaminated and unaffected by the world, especially in a day when everyone else was corrupt and wicked. Noah was also unmoved by the world. In other words, the world was going in one way or one direction and Noah was going in another direction. Noah was going in the direction of God, because he was walking with God. There are only two ways to walk here on earth, walk in the ways of the world or walk in the ways of God. This is how our Lord Jesus Christ put it, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* Matthew 7:13 & 14. What path are you on this morning, the broad way or the narrow way? Noah without a shadow of doubt was in the narrow way, the narrow path, the narrow road that leads to life, while everyone else, except his family, walked in the path of the broad way which led to that awful destruction.

Noah was unaffected by the world, uncontaminated by the world, and unmoved by the world. We that proclaim the name of Jesus are to be no different than Noah. May God help us to follow in his steps! *“And Noah walked with God.”* Like Enoch before him and Abraham after him, Noah lived in the awareness of God’s immediate presence. He walked with God by faith, trusting him, believing his Word, doing his will, in sweet, blessed communion. In other words Noah mixed his believing with faith and therefore was a follower of the Living and True God. Dear men of the church, young or old, you want to be godly fathers and leaders, it starts with God. Are you willing to follow God in order to be the man God wants you to be? As a father if you don’t lead your family in the ways of God, the world will lead your family and if the world leads your family, your family will follow in the path of destruction. Fathers one day you will stand before God and you will be responsible for you family, oh to God that you follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ so that you will be able to lead your family to God and in the ways of God. There is no middle ground; it’s either the world or God? Fathers and future fathers what will you do?

The mandate of Christ is found in Matthew 16:24-26, *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.” Genesis 6:8-10 This is what is said about Noah, what will be said about you?

Let’s Pray.

Happy Father's Day

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Joshua 24:15

June 20, 2010

"...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"

God's creation began to unfold
Be fruitful and multiply they were told
Adam would become the first father
And Eve would become the first mother

Little did Adam realize the awful responsibility
Regarding a father's duty and accountability
Called by God to be godly fathers and leaders
To teach our children to be Bible readers

So Fathers, as you seek to do that which is right
Do not neglect God's instruction or take it light
Help us God to train our children in your ways
So that it will be kept in their hearts all their days

Children are an heritage of the Lord
We must instruct them in God's Word
Nurture them in the Lord's admonition
As fathers we must have this conviction

When they rise up in the morning
Or when they lie down in the evening
When they sit down or walk by the way
We must do this for them every day

The importance of Bible family devotion
By God's grace we must set this in motion
We must not neglect this responsibility
And look to God in faith for this ability

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man
We point them to the Lord as much as we can
Happy is the man who has his quiver full
Teaching their children that God does rule

His wife shall be a fruitful vine by his side
As husband and wife they confide
In what God in their lives has done
Giving us children as the family's begun

Our prayer is that the next generation
Be established on a spiritual foundation
To carry the torch with burning affection
For this is our hope and our expectation

We trust our God to fulfill our desire
And burn in our children a holy fire
That will continue for many years to come
And never forget where God brought us from

O God keep us spiritual so that we can watch and observe
And to say as for me and my house the Lord we will serve
So Fathers, for all you have done and seek to do we wish you today
That God will bless you with a glorious and Happy Father's day