



# Marriage & Family Savers

Institute

Newsletter - June 2009



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## HE JUST WANTED RESPECT

—A Testimony—

Today is my birthday; I am 55 years old. I thank God for the marriage we have today, but it wasn't always so good.

Two years ago I realized that my husband and I hardly had any time for "us."

I was feeling lonely and abandoned. Whenever I approached my husband, Gilbert, about having a

conversation with me he would always change the subject. He never wanted to talk about it. When

we got into arguments he would shout at me "Why should I talk to you; you don't respect what I have to say anyway." I didn't see it that way. One day, it got so bad he called me a miserable wretch. It hurt so much to hear those words, but as I got to thinking I realized, I was miserable. Things went from bad to worse.

I finally made an appointment with my pastor. As I spoke to

(Cont. P.3)

There never seems to be enough room to cover the issues affecting our marriages. We wanted to do a piece on "emotional cheating" but ran out of space —next time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Thank you for your faithful support. God bless you as you continue to fight for marriages!

## FATHERHOOD STATISTICS

While the following statistics are formidable, the Responsible Fatherhood research literature generally supports the claim that a loving and nurturing father improves outcomes for children, families and communities. The following are findings from the National Fatherhood Initiative's (NFI) Father Facts :

Children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.

Studies on parent-child relationships and child wellbeing show that father love is an important factor in predicting the social, emotional, and cognitive development and functioning of children and young adults.

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## MENTOR TRAINING

Plan now to attend the Marriage Mentor Training Course beginning in September. It will be held on ten Thursday night sessions. The tuition will be \$250 for the entire course and materials. Sign up now. Log on to our web site or call our office at **845-561-9498**

## FIRST EVER

### COVENANT SIGNING CEREMONY

June 13th marks the day the Christian leaders of the town of Montgomery sat down to sign a covenant, agreeing to be united in the stand for marriage. It's called the Montgomery Area Community Marriage Policy. In this agreement, the first of its kind in our area, those who have been entrusted with the responsibility of performing weddings have agreed to:

- Require a minimum of 4 months pre-marital counseling before they perform a wedding ceremony.
- Train and Equip Marriage Mentor Couples
- Work together to provide ongoing Marriage Education opportunities throughout the year.
- Speak out in the public arena to stand for the preservation of the institution of marriage as God defines it..

This marks the first of Community Marriage Policies we hope to see implement throughout the Hudson Valley in the coming years. In more than 200 communities throughout the nation the divorce rate has been significantly decreased where leaders come together to fight

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As we're approaching Father's Day this year, it's important to consider what happened to Fatherhood in this country over the past decades. It's no surprise that as the office of "Father" has been devalued since the 1960s, our culture has also degenerated. Why are we now racing toward becoming more like Sodom and Gomorrah rather than the beacon of liberty – that city on a hill- envisioned by our founders? It is because we have lost the value, the very sanctity of the office of "Father." We must understand that the very Creator of the universe identifies himself as "Father."

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,"* (Ephesians 3:14-17).

The very word "family" is derived from the word for Father, because it is from the Fatherhood of God that all of creation finds its origin, and its source of order and strength. The Fatherhood of God is His creative expression from which we get the human family. Remove the Fatherhood of God and you have chaos, confusion, and every kind of evil. Remove Fatherhood from our families and you have the same. That's not theory; just look around you.

Two forces have worked in concert since the days of "Father Knows Best" to bring about our current condition. First, fathers have strayed from their source of "Father Love" –God and the Bible. As a result, many have become unloving dictators, instead of loving fathers. In reaction to this, the

women's movement sprang up to usurp the role of the Father. Some even claimed that men were unnecessary. Much of our pop culture portrays fathers as buffoons who need help rather than the wise and loving leaders of the family that God intended.

It's time we turned things around by first recapturing God's intention for fathers. After all, He's the Master Creator and Designer of the human family. Fathers are as necessary as mothers for our children to grow up in a healthy and balanced environment. The Mother provides comfort and assurance, while the father provides truth and authority. Where these two are present the child grows up with emotional balance. Both are necessary. That's just one reason why same-sex marriage must never be accepted in our culture. Two men, or two women, can never provide the emotional balance needed by a child. This is also validated by the fact that, in a same-sex relationship, the missing gender is often "mimicked" by one of the partners. A lesbian woman may play the "role" of the father, while the other plays the role of the mother. We know instinctively that both a mother and a father are necessary for the child to reach their full potential.

Men must step up to the plate to lead, not as tyrants or dictators, but as loving leaders who are confident in their leadership abilities. Men must lead as Jesus led –as servant leaders, taking the time and truly caring to understand the needs of the family. They must be providers, of material needs, but also of the emotional and even spiritual needs of the family, as well.

It sounds like a big job – it is! That's why we need God.

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and Godliness through our knowledge of Him..."* -2 Peter 1:3

Without the Fatherhood of God demonstrated in our own families we will continue down the slide to social chaos. Yes, I know, Jesus is coming and will whisk us away, but I, for one, don't want to see one more soul lost to the enemy's schemes, if I can prevent it. I don't want to see my children, and my grandchildren lost for my lack of leadership.

Will you join me? Will you do all you can to bring revival to our homes, and to our nation by reclaiming the divine authority of "Father." We've abdicated our leadership responsibilities long enough, going from one extreme to the other: from being tyrants to abdicating all responsibility. Can we re-commit ourselves to finding that sanctified balance that comes from the Father heart of God?

Let's together:

- Esteem once again the divine office of the Father, and hold it in the highest regard.
- Step up to the plate to lead in love. If we don't know how, then let's get into the instructional manual, the Bible. The directions are all there.
- Let's teach our children –and a nation- the ways of God, and His order for the human family.

Then we can truly celebrate "Fathers' Day!"



## STATISTICS FROM P. 1

24 million children (34 percent) live absent their biological father.

Nearly 20 million children (27 percent) live in single-parent homes.

43 percent of first marriages dissolve within fifteen years; about 60 percent of divorcing couples have children; and approximately one million children each year experience the divorce of their parents.

Fathers who live with their children are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than those who do not.

Compared to children born within marriage, children born to cohabiting parents are three times as likely to experience father absence, and children born to unmarried, non-cohabiting parents are four times as likely to live in a father-absent home.

About 40 percent of children in father-absent homes have not seen their father at all during the past year; 26 percent of absent fathers live in a different state than their children; and 50 percent of children living absent their father have never set foot in their father's home.

Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents.

From 1995 to 2000, the proportion of children living in single-parent homes slightly declined, while the proportion of children living with two married parents

remained stable.

The bottom line is we need more fathers to be actively engaged with the day-to-day duties of raising families. The well being of the next generation depends on it.

## RESPECT FROM P. 1

him he seemed to think that perhaps spending some time with a marriage counselor would help us. He thought we had 35 years of stuff to deal with.

I called Marriage Savers, and I was kind of scared of what was going to be said. I really thought I was the best wife Gilbert could ever have. I woke up earlier than him to make him breakfast, I did his laundry, I made his lunch and set it in the refrigerator the night before. Dinner was always a good hot meal even though I worked further away than Gilbert worked. What more could he asked for?

As I began counseling I was asked to invite Gilbert to come. By some miracle he did. We were in session one day when we were given the assignment to list three things we would like more of from one another. Gilbert was first. He asked for "Some" respect. I saw red! How dare he use that in our counseling! That was not true! We were learning reflective listening so all I could do was to repeat back what I had heard. I couldn't explain how wrong Gilbert was. We got through the exercise and before we finished the session I was asked what I was feeling at that moment because I looked really upset.

I began to share how Gilbert always says I don't respect him and I explained all I do for him. I thought that showed respect, but I didn't realize it had more to do with my tone of voice when I spoke to Gil, than

anything I ever did for him. He explained how he always felt I was talking "down" to him. The counselor shared Ephesians 5: 33 "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (NIV) I could not believe what was being said. It was straight from the Bible. All these years I was trying to love Gilbert with acts of service and all he asked for was respect in the way I spoke to him. He told me that was the reason he never wanted to talk to me about anything important. I felt so small in that session. No one made me feel that way; it was just me.

What I learned that day in the counseling room was life changing. I also learned that when I respected Gilbert in the way he needed to be respected, it also pleased God! It wasn't even about me. It was about pleasing God and receiving the gift He gave me 35 years ago in Gilbert.

It took this lady a good year of teaching but I can honestly say that day in counseling with Bill & Penny was

a pivotal one in my marriage, and it has never been the same since. We are now walking in a new relationship of love and respect with each other. We both have learned more of what God expects of us. Thank you Lord!

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

If you have not yet joined this institute please know that we need you to join the team to help us advance the cause of Healthy Marriages and Families. Log on to [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org) and make a monthly pledge or just send back the response form with your monthly pledge offering.

Together –with God's help– we can do it!



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#### SIGING CEREMONY FROM P.

for marriage. In the town of Montgomery these pastors have demonstrated leadership by working together:

**Pastor Ryan Clark**, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Walden

**Pastor David Kniffin**, Goodwill Church

**Pastor Mason Whitley**, Harmony Baptist

**Pastor Brian King**, Peoples Baptist Church, Maybrook.

Other Clergy and Justices of the Peace are invited to sign on. This project is just part of the work we are pursuing as part of the mission of this institute. It is made possible by individual, church and government funding. Please keep this project in your prayers. If your pastor is listed above, thank him for being part of this project. Pray that God will raise up streams of funding so that we can continue this project. It's a matter of all of us working together as One Body –The Body of Christ!

#### Fathers Day Quotes

It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father. - *Pope John XXIII*

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong. - *Charles Wadsworth*

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years. - *Mark Twain*

USE SOME Q-TIP  
THERAPY IN  
YOUR MARRIAGE



Quit

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It

Personally

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We're on the web at

[www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org)