

PRAY FOR RESTORATION OF THE FAMILY!

*“Honor your father and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”*

Exodus 20:12

There has been a calculated, intentional plan in our culture to deconstruct, devalue and destroy the family unit as God created it to be. This has been done by redefining it, normalizing warped paradigms and mocking the very foundations of the family, including the dignity of the father; the value of a strong, happy marriage between a man and woman; and the necessity to raise children with both a mother and a father.

Heavenly Father....

As Intercessors standing in the gap for our country we come to contend for the restoration of the family as You created it to be — its structure, its spiritual purposes and its necessity for a strong, healthy and godly society.

We Repent

- ◆ Heavenly Father, standing in the gap for our country, our culture and for our family systems, we repent as atonement, for how we have allowed the degradation of the family, especially the father and his vital spiritual role in the family.
- ◆ We have done this in many ways; one of which is to patronize media — t.v. shows, movies, etc. that mock fatherhood or portray the father as a weakling to be disrespected. We repent for allowing these negative portrayals of manhood and fatherhood to be normalized in our society.
- ◆ We repent for allowing feminism and the spirit of feminism to feed and grow the jezebel spirit in our culture, taking over families, taking over churches and other sectors of society.

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- ✦ We repent for how the family as You designed it to be — a father, a mother in spiritual marriage raising a family together, is at best 50% of all births in America; in some demographics only 25% or less. God forgive us for normalizing out-of-wedlock family systems where so many children are growing up without a father in the home. The statistics are clear that this creates more socially and developmentally damaged children, incarcerated men, and so many more societal, economic and spiritual ills.

The Family Comes First

- ✦ Lord God Heavenly Father, Your Word says very clearly that family comes first; that the first priority of provision and support is for one's own kinfolk. God forgive us for becoming a country of hard-heartedness and selfishness, often putting our own loved ones last to care for; so many people neglecting their elderly parents; leaving them to die in nursing homes.
- ✦ Surely 1 Timothy 5:8 warns: *"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*

The Role of the Father

- ✦ Dear Heavenly Father, we lift up to You the fathers in our country, the fathers in the Christian Faith, and ask You to convict them to walk the walk and attend church every week with their family; as so many studies have shown that the father is the greatest influencer and the greatest determining factor if a child will grow up in the Faith and stay in their Faith.¹
- ✦ 1 Timothy 3:1-5 provides a clear instruction on godly manhood: *"Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-*

¹ <https://formingfaith.wordpress.com/2015/06/18/dad-matters-the-spiritual-influence-of-fathers/>

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controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full^[a] respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)"

The Virtues of a Father

- ◆ Dear Father God, we ask You to inspire the current generations of fathers to strive to carry the virtues You share in Your Word.
- ◆ The father's role is to implement, demonstrate and impel his family to follow God's precepts, to honor God's laws of Love; as Genesis 18:19 shares: *"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."*
- ◆ Ephesians 6:4 exhorts men to be teachers of the Faith and the Word to their children: *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*
- ◆ The father is to demonstrate love, respect and honoring for woman by fulfilling God's Word in Ephesians 5:33: *"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."*
- ◆ Bring them the revelation and quality of heart to be encouragers to their children, to lift them up in a positive, loving manner; as Colossians 3:21 instructs: *"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."*
- ◆ Holy Father God, through the agency of Your Holy Spirit, prompt and inspire the men of our era and culture to be filled with Your virtues: mercy, discipline, unconditional love, might and strength, unwavering moral clarity.

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- ◆ Heavenly Father, through Your grace, love and compassion, fill the men of Your Faith with YOUR virtues, according to Psalm 103:8, *“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”*

Honoring Father and Mother

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You to atone, by our repentance, for how our society, even the Ekklesia, has degraded its parenting, spoiling children and allowing them to take liberties that disrespect their elders and others, violating the Fifth Commandment.
- ◆ As Exodus 20:12 instructs: *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”* Lord God, we pray that You will fill the hearts of today’s youth with a conviction to love and honor their parents; to love them and forgive them for their mistakes. Convict them that true love does not expect perfection in another, even a parent.
- ◆ We release Colossians 3:20 into the atmosphere: *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”* ***“This pleases the Lord.”*** Let this be an inspiration to cause children, young and adolescent, to respectfully obey their parents, as a form of true virtue.
- ◆ Heavenly Father, even Messiah Jesus honored his earthly father and mother, tho He was the Son of God. Luke 2:51: *“Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them (He continued to be subject to them).”* This tells us that subjecting to the authority of parents is a spiritual virtue. We pray Lord God, that You will fill this generation of children and youth with this revelation and desire to possess this godly virtue as Jesus Christ demonstrated.

Children Are a Heritage

- ◆ Dear Abba Father, we sorrowfully repent for how modern culture has been programmed to believe a child in the womb is just a mass of tissue; that it is a thing to be heartlessly discarded. God forgive us. For

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truly, each baby is a precious gift who has a right to live out its God destiny. Fill today's Gen Zs with this truth, in their heart of hearts.

- ◆ For Psalm 127:3-5 proclaims: *"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court."*
- ◆ We pray for a baby boom; that You give Gen Zs the spiritual and economic supports to bring many babies into the world in intact families to happily married parents of the Christian Faith, raised in the love of Christ Jesus for mighty works unto the Lord our God.

SEALING PRAYER:

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!"*

1 John 3:1

*"Those who honor their fathers
will make up for their own sins,
and those who praise their mother
are like people storing up treasure.*

*Those who honor their fathers
will be made happy
by their own children,
and they will be heard when they pray.*

*Those who praise their fathers
will live a long life,
and those who listen to the Lord
will give rest to their mothers,*

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*and they will serve their parents
as their masters.*

*Honor your father in action and word
so that a blessing will come
from him to you, since a father's blessing
supports his children's families."*

Sirach 3:3-9

*"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the victory and the majesty,
indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth;*

*Yours is the dominion, O LORD,
and You exalt Yourself as head over all.*

*Both riches and honor come from You,
and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might;
and it lies in Your hand*

to make great and to strengthen everyone."

1 Chronicles 29:11-12