I. Basic Principles Of Family Life
   A. Fatherhood is eternal in God
   B. Every earthly father represents God to his family
   C. The chain of authority: God the Father ➞ Christ ➞ Husband ➞ Wife
   D. The father represents Christ in three main ministries:
      1. Priest
      2. Prophet
      3. King

II. Biblical Patterns Of Fatherhood
   A. Gen. 7:1—Noah’s righteousness obtained admission to the ark for his whole family.
   B. Gen. 18:17–19—God chose Abraham because He could count on him to fulfill his responsibilities to his family. From this would result national greatness.
   C. Josh. 24:15—Because Joshua was faithful as Priest, Prophet and King to his family, God gave him the privilege of making decisions that were effective for his whole family.
   D. Job 1:5—Job ministered as a true Priest for his family.
   E. Mark 9:22–23—The father of the epileptic boy exercised faith for his son’s deliverance.
   F. Acts 16:31—The gospel gives to each father the right to believe for the salvation of his family.

III. Results Of Father’s Failure
   A. Deut. 28:41—Children become a curse instead of a blessing
   B. Hosea 4:6—A generation of God-forgotten children
   C. Mal. 4:5–6
      1. The earth smitten with a divine curse, behind which lies the sinister power of witchcraft
      2. German proverb: “To become a father is not hard, but to be one is very hard
   D. 1 Tim. 5:8
      1. The key word is “provide.”
      2. A father must provide for his family on two levels:
         a. Material, as “breadwinner”
         b. Spiritual, as priest, prophet and king

IV. Six Practical Steps To Fulfilling Your Responsibilities As A Father
   1. Recognize your position
   2. Admit your failures—to God and to your family
   3. Accept your responsibilities
   4. Review your priorities—give time to the things that matter most
   5. Trust God to supply the grace you need
   6. Upon this basis, God will honor your office