**Chapter 6: Loving Your Children’s Mother**

1. A Note to Divorced and Never-Married Dads
   1. No Blame Assigned to your situation or to offer a fix
   2. Need to account for your children’s mother in your effective father efforts
   3. A father must treat the mother of his children with a respect that shelters his children
   4. Avoid condemning your children’s mother especially in their presence. She is a part of them therefore they will be condemned along with her by you.
   5. Make conversations about her a no-jab, no-blame zone.
   6. Keep your eye on the goal, your Kids being healthy and whole
2. A Championship Challenge
   1. Husbands love your wives, Number one Job
      1. Loving wife is a pattern to discover and maintain for a lifetime not a problem to fix
      2. Fathers are called to love and respect the mother of their children
      3. Show affection to your wife in front of the kids. Give her a kiss.
         1. Don’t be intimidated by the ruckus that unfolds
         2. Children need to see passion and deep love in your marriage
         3. The evidence of an unbreakable and healthy bond between you and your wife is a wall of security around your children
      4. It is up to us fathers to communicate to our children what marriage and romantic love are all about, from God’s perspective, by showing love to and serving our brides. Best done by modeling, by example and talking about it when opportunity arises
3. I Love You
   1. Say “I love you” to your wife and Why you love her before she asks.
      1. Make the “Why” true and concrete not contrived.
      2. Be prepared with 3 examples like:
         1. Because she challenges you to be a better man
         2. Because she’s an amazing mother to your children
         3. Because of the way she understands and repeatedly forgives you
         4. Because of what she’s taught you about love
      3. Focus on what she feels and thinks about love not your confused ideas
         1. Ask her how to speak love to her. Become an attentive student of your wife
         2. Don’t repeat mistakes, have a teachable heart and learn from every act
         3. Once find love language give her plenty of it.
      4. Watching the way you treat their mother will create an invisible but indelible record in their hearts and minds.
4. Tough Love
   1. Sometimes love feels like drudgery.
   2. Love is about perseverance
   3. Love is a daily decision, a choice we continuously make
   4. Romance (Flowers, date nights, pet names, and sex) is a good thing but not the only part of the expression of love
   5. Our bride is our high priority. The value we place on her is seen by the way we serve her through hard work, sacrifice and inconveniences
5. Long-Term Love
   1. Long term relationships create a bond that cannot be broken over the years even through separation.
   2. In the presence of our wife our love making is genuine and deep just in the touch of a hand, look of the eye, or a thought
   3. Determine to honor our love relationships in the way we love our bride and children with faithfulness and intimacy throughout our lives
6. The Imperfect Present
   1. In this life we will probably never master a perfect love relationship but if we keep close connection with God the Father He will always bring us to achieve our best for Him.
   2. God forbid that I would not be grateful for the privilege of serving by bride
      1. Be eager to serve the woman that God has given us
      2. Serve in big and small ways, all ways.
7. Listen to Your Love
   1. We need to listen as Fathers and Husbands
      1. Our wives tell us valuable information about them.
      2. Our wives tell us about our children
      3. Our wives have crucial word to say to us
         1. Leave work thoughts at work
         2. Practice what you preach to others,
         3. Practice what God calls you to do
   2. Two lessons
      1. Our kids need us
      2. We need our Wives to hold us accountable
   3. We need to work side-by-side with our bride showing her love and respect
   4. We need to thank God for our wife’s unique insights and that we make a great team
   5. Championship Fathering is only part of Championship Parenting
8. Championship Checklist
   1. I discuss my children’s development with my children’s mother
      1. Keeps us on the same page
      2. Kids feel deeply loved when they realize their parents are united in raising them
      3. Discuss parenting differences and resolve issues in private. Keep children settled in your resolve
   2. I discuss my goals for each child with my children’s mother
      1. By 18 what kind of kid do you want? They will rise to your motivation.
      2. Setting goals for them gives direction on the way to teach and lead them
      3. If you have no goals for them they will set their own
   3. I discuss my children’s problems with my children’s mother
      1. Agree with wife: Discussing is NOT to assign fault
      2. Focus on seeing the problem and brainstorming solutions
      3. Take shared responsibility for responding
         1. The older the child the more responsibility the child needs to accept to resolve the problem
      4. Wise parents realize they need each other’s help. Let the problem unit you.
         1. Praying together for the solution to the problem is our greatest weapon
            1. It removes the blame game
            2. It shows your wife your true intentions toward her and your child
            3. It will put you and your spouse on the same page
   4. I discuss my frustrations as a parent with my children’s mother
      1. Discussing frustrations is NOT a dumping time on spouse
      2. Praying about our frustrations, insecurities, and irritations to the Lord removes the spouse from attack and places it at the feet of Jesus. He is strong, He can take it. He is the one with the answers
      3. Encourage and appreciate your spouse in the things she is doing well, keep constructive criticism to a minimum
   5. I spend time with my wife away from the children
      1. Children come and go but the wife of your youth is forever
         1. In the end, when the kids are gone, it’s just you and your wife alone again
         2. Be prepared to be in love with your wife when that time comes
   6. I have a good relationship with my wife
      1. Good is the base line of your love relationship with your wife
      2. Stop the crazy ups and downs of a relationship. On the bad days be at a baseline of good
      3. Good marriages learn to handle with difficulties not avoid. Resolve not escape
      4. Settle all your difficulties between each other before you go to sleep
   7. I am romantic with my wife
      1. Does your wife believe you are being romantic with her?
         1. Discussing what your wife thinks is romantic is very romantic
         2. Listen intently and make notes later
         3. Learn how your Wife spells R-O-M-A-N-C-E
   8. I have a sexually fulfilling relationship with my wife
      1. Have you talked about your needs with your spouse?
         1. Discuss with wife on a feelings level
         2. Kill the complaints this in NOT a way to communicate with your wife
      2. Males are clueless about roles and details of romance
      3. Females often feel clueless about roles and details of sex
9. Keep the Love Boat Afloat
   1. Your children’s mother desperately needs to see and hear you loving her children then she will be loved
   2. Your children will experience your love through observing you love their mother
   3. Find a way to honor your wife in a big way. Make her feel special.
   4. Thank and praise your bride in front of your children
      1. Tell her how she makes you a better man and mean it
      2. Think of 5 things you have learned from her over the years and tell her
      3. Thank her for her partnership, caring and insight
   5. Love your wife
      1. First out of obedience to God because he commands it
      2. Do it because it strengthens your marriage, you and your children
      3. Create examples and memories that your children can take into their relationships
   6. Action Points: Read the book! And Love your Children’s Mother

**Chapter 6: Study Questions for Loving Your Children’s Mother**

1. Have you ever discerned a wounded spirit in your wife or Kids? How did you deal with it?
2. How will you use the techniques talked about to remedy a wounded spirit? What are they?
3. Which one of the below are you Weakest in, in relationship to your wife?
   1. I discuss my children’s development with my children’s mother
   2. I discuss my goals for each child with my children’s mother
   3. I discuss my children’s problems with my children’s mother
   4. I discuss my frustrations as a parent with my children’s mother
   5. I spend time with my wife away from the children
   6. I have a good relationship with my wife
   7. I am romantic with my wife
   8. I have a sexually fulfilling relationship with my wife
4. How will you strengthen yourself in the above areas? How will you emphasis it this week to your wife?
5. Which one of the above are you Weakest in, in relationship to your wife? How will you strengthen yourself in this area? How will you emphasis it this week to your wife?
   1. I praise my wife for the things she does well
   2. I express Affection for my Wife, (Not sexual desire, Affection) in front of my kids
   3. I tell wife she is special to me
   4. I have a close bond with my wife
   5. I tell my wife I am proud of her
6. If you were directing a movie based on Carey Casey’s life, how would you make sure in the following scenes that the audience understood the impact of his father’s marriage on him? What would the actor playing Carey do or say? Would you flash forward or back to any other scenes? What kind of music would you want in the background?
   1. Saturday mornings when Carey and his brother jumped on their parents’ bed
   2. The walk to the store for groceries when the car had broken down
   3. The scene in the hospital after his mother’s surgery