

A Christian Father

by Pastor Dimas Salaberrios

1 Corinthians 4:15

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

On March 26, 2007, I became the father to Dallas Ava Elizabeth Salaberrios, a beautiful 6 pound and 10 ounce little girl. That little girl can capture my attention like no one else right now. The beautiful thing is that I love her and want to see her succeed but at the same time I refuse to yield to her every desire because some things that she would love could harm her. However, I am married and Dallas has entered our lives and we must love her to the fullest without letting her overshadow the importance of us keeping a healthy marriage and peaceful environment at home.

As a man and new dad I want to be a great Christian father who raises his children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. I want my daughter to grow up a virgin and to find a husband and get married. I want my daughter to dream dreams and to keep her number one relationship intact, her relationship with Jesus Christ. My number one priority for my daughter is for her to know Jesus Christ. I will be reading and studying ways to raise my girl so that she doesn't feel neglected because of my commitment to ministry. I have met too many pastor kids that are completely turned off to Jesus because of neglect or how they witnessed a double life with huge contradictions at home.

I am passionate about learning how to raise my daughter in this hostile environment towards the nucleus Christian family. Scripture points out that the pastors home should be the example of how it works and I am desperate to live in such away that my

church can model after me. My preaching will lack power if my lifestyle contradicts my words and God's word so I am ever so careful to be obedient to Jesus. When I accepted the call to be a pastor I accepted a huge amount of responsibility. I must model holiness, passion, prayer and preaching. I must live above reproach in all areas and I have to rule my own house well according to Paul's letter to Timothy.

I love the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:15 because Paul let the church understand that there is a difference between being a teacher and a father. Paul did not play with that church. Paul was extremely concerned with their spiritual development. He was not concerned about the size of the offering as much as he was concerned with that church knowing and obeying Jesus. If my daughter becomes a public speaker, doctor, housewife or teacher that doesn't mean all that much to me. I really care that she knows and serves God. That would be the greatest accomplishment of her life, not the other titles. I want to help her by placing her in the right schools and teach her manners and leave her a healthy inheritance. I want to connect her with a network of caring people that will pull for her to succeed in life. All these things are important but they do not compare to her loving and obeying Jesus.

We are living in a time where a pastor's home is overlooked and where pastors can fall into sexual sin and be easily restored. We are in an era of the church that has rehabilitation plans for every situation. I am under a deeper conviction that disqualifies people from ministry. With this mindset I fear God and the loss of the greatest job in the world, which is being a Pastor. My trust is that God will keep me and help sustain me for the long haul. I have no confidence in my flesh because it always wants more and more. I am sure that the only way to raise my daughter and be a great pastor is with the consistent divine help of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that more and more examples will rise where preacher kids are not the model of disobedience and where churches can point out

that there are zero divorces in their congregation and how the men's ministry has a focus on fatherhood.

Let's Pray: Father please help us to be great fathers and teach us how to raise our children in this hostile environment which has very little regard for Your Word, Jesus. Teach us how and, with Your help, we can obey. Amen.