

## Home Safety

### *How safe is your home?*

Most of us feel very secure and safe in our homes...at least from a physical perspective. But how safe is your home for your wife and children from the emotional and spiritual perspectives? At first glance, this may sound like a rather bizarre question but let's explore it a little deeper.

As men, we're often taught, from the earliest ages, to deal with disappointments and setbacks by "shaking it off" or "getting on with life." What we actually do is put those hurts and unhealed pains conveniently on the shelf of our hearts. The "world" is quick to tell us that we don't "measure up" from our earliest days. We're not athletic enough, not smart enough, not handsome enough, not rich enough, or not outgoing enough. We often feel that our efforts are never good enough. We're quick to respond with a "that's life" attitude and then do our best to convince ourselves and the rest of the world that we're worthy.

Our children and wives are no less susceptible to the putdowns and cruelty of the world. So I return to the original question: how safe is your home? Our homes should be the safest place on this side of heaven for every member of our family. As the husband and father, you have the most influence in creating that safety. Is your home a place of unconditional love, approval and acceptance? Are your wife and children absolutely free from any feelings of having to earn your love, respect or affection? Can your family see the face of God in your daily interactions with each of them? Do your eyes light up when your child enters the room? Does your wife feel cherished and honored and appreciated? Is your home a place of comfort and encouragement?

Your true measure as a man is how well you create a nurturing, safe and loving environment for your wife and children. Are you the man of your wife's dreams? Will your daughter settle for nothing less than a husband who measures up to the standard set by her father? Will your son aspire to be the man he sees in his father? These are the true measures of success – a success only reached by submitting our lives daily to God's wisdom and guidance.

Again, I ask, "How safe is your home?"