



- Kids who grow up without a father are far more likely to engage in self-destructive behavior.
- Satan's purpose to destroy the family begins by neutralizing the **FATHER** because God has called men to be leaders in the home.

Big Idea: The fortress of family is under siege, and God is calling fathers to stand in the gap.

-- Nehemiah 4:6-14.

- v. 12 – We need constantly to guard against the attacks that God's enemies are making against God's people.
- v. 13 – The battle for the church often begins with the battle for the family.
- v. 14 – The last half of verse 14 is Nehemiah's charge to fathers.

1.) *"Fight for your BROTHERS*

- To stand up and fight for the best interests of one another is to fight for the eternal family of God.

2.) *"Fight for your SONS and DAUGHTERS*

- **Fight for your children by raising them in God's WORD**
 - Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:6-9

-- Make every effort to establish a time of family devotions where you encounter God's truth, discuss it, and pray.

-- **Fight for your children by growing CLOSE to them.**

-- A critical principle of fatherhood: Error increases with distance.

-- The nearer we are to our children, the better we can lead and influence them.

-- Rick Warren – "The best way to spell love is "T-I-M-E."

-- God is a supremely excellent Father to us, and He wants us to emulate Him by striving for excellence as fathers.

3.) *"Fight for your WIVES*

-- **Fight for your wives as a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:12).**

-- Real men do not commit **ADULTERY**

-- Adultery is deadly (Proverbs 7:21-27).

-- Adultery is selfish, faithless, cowardly, weak, and moronic. It is a treacherous epidemic that destroys families.

-- Scripture pleads with us not to allow ourselves to be desensitized to what God hates (Romans 12:2).

-- **Fight for your wives by burning the ships!**

-- While marriage certainly is about happiness, it is about **HOLINESS** first.

-- Adopt for your marriage the motto of the Marines on the battlefield:
"Semper Fidelis," "Always Faithful."

-- **Fight for your wives by PRAYING FOR them (Proverbs 31:30-31, 12:4).**

-- **Fight for your wives by praying for them. (See insert.)**

4.) *"Fight for your HOMES*

-- **Fight for your homes by leading your family in the Lord.**

-- God has appointed men to provide spiritual leadership in the home (Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 6:4).

-- Like it or not, fathers carry the primary responsibility for the **FUNCTIONING** of our families.

-- **Honor your God-given responsibility and LEAD like Christ.**

-- The fact that male headship in the home is politically incorrect does not make it any *less* correct.

-- *Will you stand in the gap and fight the good fight of godly fathers?*

-- Let us be fathers who stand in the gap and fight for our children, our wives, and our homes unto the glory of God!