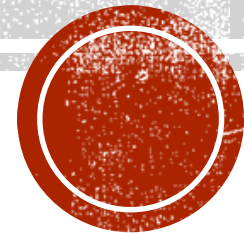


# **IMPACT OF SINGLE MOTHERS RAISING BOYS AND THE CHURCHES ROLE**

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# THE PROBLEM

- Stereotypes influence treatment and care.
- Contradicting views on single parenting.
- Single-mother families are more likely to suffer from economic insecurity than two-parent families (McLanahan, 2004).
- The church has many single mothers who face the challenges of raising their children without the presence of a father or male figure.



# KEY TERMS

- *Single mothers*: Women who are either divorced or widowed, or who were never married, had an unplanned pregnancy, and carry all the responsibilities of raising the children alone.
- *At-risk adolescent males*: Young men who have grown up without the presence of a father in the home and who exhibit additional risk issues related to anger, depression, aggression, antisocial behavior, and/or feminine characteristics.
- *Absentee fathers*: Men who are not the custodial parents, those with whom the children do not live. It also refers to the men who fail to relate to their children or who are not present in the homes or lives of the children.



# BIBLICAL MODEL

- Genesis 1:27 clearly states, “In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Looking at Genesis 1:27, we first see the differences in sex.
- Ephesians 5:22 states, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”
- The Bible teaches that children should be trained (Prov 22:6)



# IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- Father-loss causes object hunger in males (Herring, 2005) and 75 % of all drug users and 65 % of all suicides (Sowers, 2010) come from fatherless homes.
- President Obama said that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of schools, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioral problems, run away from home, or become teenage parents themselves (Biblarz & Stacy, 2010).



# IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- Children from single-parent homes are more than twice as likely to be arrested for a juvenile crime, twice as likely to be treated for emotional and behavioral problems, roughly twice as likely to be expelled from school, and three times more likely to drop out of school.





# SINGLE MOTHERS

- While mothers offer sons many of the same things that fathers do, they offer them differently. More important, sons receive them very differently from a mother than from a father (Meeker 2010).
- When a person opens up and shares their story and feels truly heard, they feel decreased anxiety experience a change in their brain circuitry (Sedlacek 2014).
- Single mothers need to remember and recognize is that physical and emotional wellbeing is centered on making small, but consistent positive choices.



# THEOLOGICAL KEY POINTS

- Single mothers benefit when they have spiritual support (1 Kgs 17:12-16)
- Holistic management balance for single mothers includes confronting the past and recovering self-esteem (1 Kgs 17:18)
- Spiritual men can offer meaningful interaction (1 Kgs 17:19-23)



# ROLE OF THE CHURCH

- The churches need to be sustained but the community needs the help from the people of God
- The church must be the Elijah for the single mothers in the community today.
- Malachi 4:5–6 states, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet ... and He shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.”



# RESTORATION

- The good news is that God looks after the lost (Luke 15:3-6). He also looks after the “fatherless,” the “widows,” and unwed mothers (Jas 1:27).
- The ultimate plan of restoration has been in place from the beginning: “To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created” (White, 1923, p. 15). The “essence of the gospel is restoration” (White, 1940, p. 824).





# QUESTIONS

