

Time to pray for men

God has been doing something very special among the men in our country the past three years. Many husbands are surrendering their lives to God and are returning to their homes to take up their priestly role. This is challenging for us women since some of us have never really seen our men take up this godly position in our homes. How do we know it is for real? We need to plan some extra time to pray for them now, and what do we pray for them? The following are some guidelines that may help you pray for the men in our country and the man in your life. (Also see the article on Men-2-pray).

- Pray for every husband who has given his life over to God, to find friends and join a prayer group for men who will encourage him, be a mentor to him and teach him to grow as a disciple of the Lord Jesus.
- Pray for men to love their wives again as they love their own lives and bodies; to care for their wives, cherish them and love them as Christ loved the Church, and to give themselves to their wives and children as Jesus did for the Church.
- Ask that they will restore the family altar, sanctify and cleanse their wives with the washing of water by the Word, and encourage her to follow God's calling on her life.
- Also pray that men will reconsider the way they spend their time and money, especially those who are married, that they will share with their wives how they spend money, and budget together for monthly expenses (**Eph.5:26-30**).
- Pray that God will help men to separate themselves from the wider family, and be joined to their wives and children the way God intended (**Eph.5:31**).
- Pray that husbands will love their wives as they love themselves and not become bitter towards them about anything; that they will be able to forgive the wrongs of their wives and right their own wrongs with a humble heart. (**Eph.5:33**).
- Pray that especially fathers will not provoke their children, making life bitter for them, being negative and criticising their children all the time, but that they will rather discipline them in a godly way, and encourage them in things concerning their identity, gifts and talents (**Col.3:20-21**).
- Pray that husbands will live up to their priestly role and set an example to their children in the way they treat their wives as the weaker vessel, so their prayers may not be hindered (**1 Pet.3:7-8**).
- Pray for men to have the mind of Christ, to have compassion for one another, to love as brothers, to be tender-hearted, courteous, not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, but on the contrary with blessing, knowing that they were called to this (**1 Pet.3:8-9**).
- Ask that men will love life God's way and restrain their tongues so that they do not speak evil or deceit, and that they refrain from taking bribes to obtain business deals or become involved in any unrighteous business dealings. (**1 Pet.3:10-11**).

Give thanks to the Lord for touching the hearts and lives of so many men in our country. Give thanks to Him for answering the prayers of many parents, wives and children over the years.