

Are you the Dad God Wants You to Be?

Dr. Merritt Provides Tools for Fighting America's Fatherless Epidemic

Becoming a father is one of the greatest and most important tasks a man will face. Why then, are so many American men not taking this role seriously? Absentee fatherhood is becoming increasingly recognized as a strong contributor to the cultural, moral and spiritual meltdown of our nation. The emotional, intellectual and physical repercussions of this epidemic are devastating, causing problems in school, drug and alcohol abuse, antisocial and criminal behavior and health problems. Dr. James Merritt, pastor, author and well respected leader knows firsthand the awesome responsibility that being a father brings and is ready to equip men with the tools they need to prevent their children from falling victim to America's fatherless epidemic.

In *What God Wants Every Dad to Know*, Dr. James Merritt offers fathers a valuable resource to interface with and disciple children on the most central issues facing young adults today including money, sex, work, emotions and relationships. Whether you are just beginning your journey as a dad or you are knee deep in the pond of parenting, Merritt offers the lessons he has learned the hard way and wisdom from over thirty years of parenting to guide your journey.

Utilizing the book of Proverbs as a letter that God has written to his child, Merritt drives home the most important lessons God wants dads to know including:

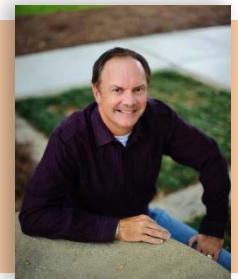
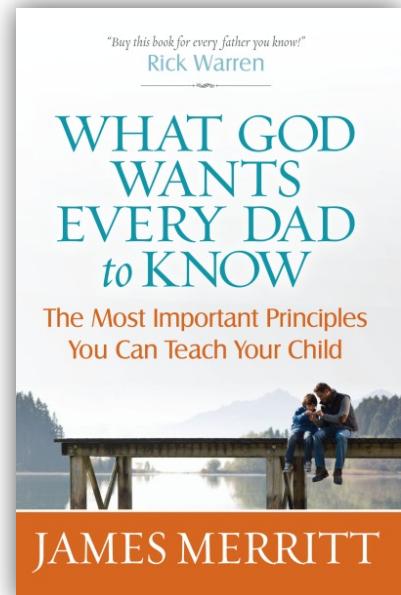
- Teaching your children how to build the right kinds of relationships
- Learning to control emotions and words
- The importance of effective Godly discipline
- Encouraging purity and avoiding sexual sin
- Instilling a good work ethic
- Learning the keys to money management

Merritt explains that above all, God calls for men to raise wise children and offers practical applications from the book of Proverbs to the various everyday situations that children face. America needs strong, committed, godly dads with the integrity, convictions and dedication to teach their kids that in a world often headed the wrong way, God's way is the right way.

Will you be an absent, docile father? Or will you be a loving, disciplining presence in your child's life? Your choice will be felt for generations."

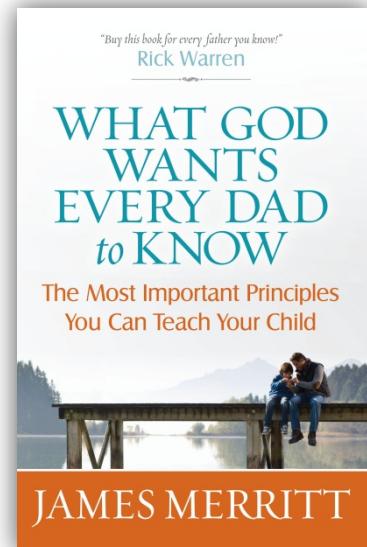
—James Merritt

James Merritt (PhD) is a pastor, author and host of *Touching Lives*, a television show that broadcasts nationwide and in 122 countries. His books include *Still Standing: 8 Winning Strategies for Facing Tough Times*, *How to Impact and Influence Others* and *God, I've Got a Question*. He has also served as a two-term president of America's largest Christian denomination. As a national voice on faith and leadership, he has been interviewed by *Time*, *Fox News*, *ABC World News*, *MSNBC* and *60 Minutes*. He resides with his family outside Atlanta, Georgia.



Suggested Discussion Topics

- America's Fatherless Epidemic—Can Anything Be Done?
- Proverbs, a Lesson From God to His Child
- Controlling Our Tempers—4 Steps to Overcoming Anger
- The Importance of Effective Discipline
- Don't Be Afraid of the Birds and the Bees—The Importance of Instilling Sexual Purity in Our Children
- 5 Lessons to Instill a Good Work Ethic
- 10 Keys to Teach Children to Master Over Their Money



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Interview Questions

- In your book, you discuss the fatherless epidemic facing America today. Why do you think this problem has quadrupled in the past 50 years? Where have all the fathers gone?
- What are the repercussions for children who are growing up in a home where the father is either physically or emotionally absent?
- At what point in your own life did you realize that becoming a dad is an awesome responsibility?
- According to the Bible, what are the most valuable lessons that a father can teach his children?
- The book is in part based on the concept that the book of Proverbs is much more than just a book in the Bible. You argue that Proverbs is a letter written by God to his child. What led you to draw this conclusion?
- Why is Proverbs such a powerful resource for today's dads?
- In Proverbs 22:6, we are told to "train up" our children. What does this mean?
- Many parents aspire to raise "good" children. You point out we are actually called to raise "godly" children. What is the difference?
- What is the ultimate goal of fatherhood? Can this be measured?