



WEEKLY
Summary

Week Six Summary:

“The Apple Doesn’t Fall Far From the Tree” is a cliché that proves truer than most of us realize in our own lives. In the area of femininity and masculinity, what we believe and what we live out is hugely shaped by what was modeled for us in our earliest years by those adults closest to us--our parents. This is a good news/bad news kind of situation. For those of us who grew up in a family where Mom and Dad were both present, lovingly committed to each other, and related in a positive way to the kids, a biblical model of the relationship between men and women doesn’t seem too odd; it’s even desirable. But for those who grew up in homes where Mom or Dad was physically or emotionally absent (or abusive), it’s a very different matter.

As women, we learn how to relate to men based on how our fathers related to us. If that relationship was positive, we develop security in our femininity, learn to relate positively to men, and are more likely to have a healthy sexual relationship in our marriage. If a father is absent or worse, we tend toward one of two other paths: We may become shy, insecure, and anxious around men; or we may become inappropriately aggressive, angry, or even sexually promiscuous. Similarly, our relationships with our mothers also shape us as women. From our mothers, we receive signals about what it means to be feminine and whether “being a woman” is a good or a bad thing.

If for you, all this is “Bad News,” the Good News is that God himself promises to be the Father to the fatherless. And, He provides other “life messages” than the unspoken ones we learned as children, and other role models besides our earliest ones. God’s Word tells us of His good plans for us. Part of his plan for women involves nurturing relationships between older and younger women, regardless of their biological relationship.

