



## Package For Life

Men often find their identity within their job, their title, or their position as a doctor, lawyer, contractor, pilot or president of company XYZ. Getting promoted or getting a better job provides us with a sense of accomplishment and self worth. In my line of work as a police officer you are known, and often viewed differently, based on your rank, whether it's Sergeant, Detective, Inspector, Deputy Chief or Chief. In the private sector, deadlines and profits are stressful for those trying to advance their careers and improve their resumes. A few times I have experienced the stress of the promotional process on me and my family.

To determine who gets promoted, my organization has us put together a *package* with examples of leadership, team building, conflict resolution, communication, coaching & development, and decisiveness. Following is a *package* of questions to challenge men. Let's consider how we are standing up to that package at home:

Do you have an example of how you have shown leadership at home?  
Have you taken an active role with the children's education or faith development?  
What have you done to build your relationship with your wife and children? What are you doing to repair broken personal relationships?  
When was the last time you communicated to your wife and children how much you love them?  
When was the last time you said no to something at work because you had a family event (Johnny's soccer game, Emily's dance, or you promised to take your kids to the park)?

It is extremely important that we have strong Christian leadership and role models in the world, and men who realize that all authority is from God. Too often we invest our time and energy into advancement at work and expect our family and friends to understand. Some men fear retirement and the loss of their title or position. However, we can easily find, after 25-35 years of work, that there is a change in the organization and that we are on the outside wondering what happened.

The problem is that, if we don't balance work and family, one of the two deteriorates. The only thing you have left in life is what you have built outside your organization. I have been around people on their death bed and not once have I heard them saying "I wish I had spent more time at the office," or "If I had just received one more promotion....." Their regrets are with the relationships they had, "I wish I had spent more time with my children and my wife."

The title of dad, husband, uncle, and granddad will be the title that you will be remembered for the most. When you go for your final interview, you won't be able to embellish your examples or pad your resume. I'm confident that more weight will be given to what you did outside your job. That is one interview you don't want to fail. You want to hear the words "Enter my rest my good and faithful servant".

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