

GENTLE STRENGTH



Leading Your Family with Christlike
Love and Humility

By Familia De Fe

ABOUT US

Hey Familia, I'm John Pusic, a follower of Christ, husband to my wife Liliana, and father to our children Jani and Alina. Together, we are a family that goes by the name Familia de Fe.

Our family started this community to come alongside and strengthen other families seeking to honor God within their homes. What began with the four of us has grown into a wider community of believers we lovingly embrace as familia too.

You can find us sharing our faith and family life on social media and our website:

Instagram: [@familia_de_fe](#)

Facebook: [FamiliaDeFeCommunity](#)

Website: [www.heyfamiliadefe.com](#)

My heart is to encourage and equip fathers and husbands to be spiritual leaders of their homes. So I'm thrilled to provide this ebook written from my perspective as a Christian man striving to steward my family well.

Within these pages, I hope you'll find wisdom and perspective to inspire you on your journey of leading in faith. Let's explore together what it means to create a Christ-centered home as we guide our families.

Grateful to share this journey with you,



heyfamiliadefe.com

CONTENTS



01

Introduction

02

Cultivating a Heart of Service

03

Shepherding Hearts Gently

04

Honoring our Wives as Fellow Heirs

05

Leading Through Vulnerable Humility

06

Conclusion



heyfamiliadefe.com

Introduction

As Christian fathers and husbands, we are called to lead with the gentle strength of humility, service, and sacrifice. This stands in contrast to the harsh, controlling leadership often modeled in our culture. My prayer is that this book encourages men to steward their homes in a biblical way by following Christ's example of authority through servanthood.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity,

-Colossians 3:12-14

heyfamilyadefe.com

Cultivating a Heart of Service

As christian husbands, we are called to lead with strength, initiative, and courage - not passive complacency. This means stepping up to take responsibility for the spiritual welfare of our home. We must be ready to fight spiritual battles on behalf of our family, praying against evil forces trying to gain footholds. We need to be diligent students of God's word so we can firmly anchor our families in scriptural truth versus compromising with cultural relativism. Our role is to gently yet steadfastly guide our wives and children toward Christ, not tyrannically control them, but patiently nurture their faith through our teaching, discipline and consistency. We lead by tackling the hard work required to provide for and protect our family under God's provision, embracing our duty as men to cover our homes in selfless strength.

REFLECTION:

- Do I spend more time serving myself versus selflessly serving my family?
- What specific acts of loving service could I incorporate into each day?
- What distractions do I need to remove in order to be attentive and available?

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

-Philippians 2:3-4

Shepherding Hearts Gently

As fathers charged with shepherding our children's hearts, we must lead with Christlike gentleness. This means dealing calmly with disobedience, enforcing discipline thoughtfully rather than reactively, and admitting fault when we respond poorly. It also requires granting them appropriate freedom to make decisions themselves, so that they mature into responsible, independent thinkers. We cannot force external compliance and call it discipleship - true authority lies in winning their hearts. That happens by lovingly walking alongside them, taking interest in the details of their lives, and being patient in training. Our tone and demeanor hold great influence. Though firmness has its place, our children thrive most under gentle guidance.

REFLECTION:

- Do I discipline harshly reacting in anger, or gently yet firmly walking in grace?
- Am I reasonable in boundaries yet granting age-appropriate freedom?
- Do I prioritize speaking into my children's hearts more than just behavior?

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”
~Ephesians 6:4

Honoring our Wives as Fellow Heirs

As Christian husbands, we are called to honor our wives, not wield power and control over them. This starts with listening attentively to their needs and perspectives, not dismissively pretending to hear while distracted or impatient. We must make decisions mutually, weighing her counsel prayerfully, rather than independently dictating outcomes. Treating her as an equal heir means freely expressing affection, praise, and genuine interest to build up our wife in Christ. It also requires humbly admitting when we are wrong, asking forgiveness, and not letting stubborn pride come between us. When we esteem our wives as fellow saints, our relationship thrives. She blossoms knowing that she is loved unconditionally.

REFLECTION:

- Do I treat my wife as an equal partner made in God's image, or as inferior?
- Am I affectionate and affirming in praising her gifts and character?
- Do I humbly admit when wrong and reconcile quickly?

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
~1 Peter 3:7

Leading Through Vulnerable Humility

True Christlike leadership requires openness, honesty and humility. As fathers and husbands, we must model vulnerability by sharing our shortcomings and struggles, confessing sins, and asking for support rather than pretending we are strong. We must exemplify quick forgiveness when wronged, overlooking minor offenses for the sake of peace. And we must exercise our authority through self-sacrificial service, laying down power and pride to meet the needs of others first. This humble leadership style reflects our Savior, who wielded authority yet emptied and humbled himself to the point of death on a cross. It seems radical and counterintuitive through worldly eyes. But leading in surrendered gentleness actually forges the deepest trust and most enduring influence.

REFLECTION:

- Do I hide struggles and pretend to “have it all together” versus transparently confessing needs?
- Am I quick to extend grace and forgiveness when wronged?
- Does my family see me humbly serve others, not wielding status?

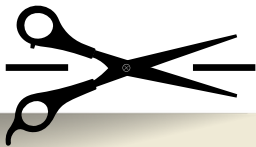
But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.
-2 Corinthians 12:9

Conclusion

My brothers, it is my prayer that these words have illuminated God's vision for our leadership in the home. May we lead courageously yet gently, with the tenderness of shepherds and the sacrifice of servants. As we model ourselves after Christ, may our wives and children find in us grace, humility and devotion flowing from the Lord we follow.

"He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction." ~Malachi 4:6

Lord Jesus, I come to you seeking wisdom and strength to lead my family in a godly way. Help me cultivate a heart of humble service towards my wife and children. Empower me to shepherd their hearts with gentle, thoughtful discipline and abundant grace. Give me courage to lead vulnerably, confessing my shortcomings and asking for support. Teach me to honor my wife as an equal heir in Christ, valuing her perspective and admitting when I am wrong. Shape me into a spiritual leader marked by sacrifice, not pride. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I may steer my home gently towards You. Thank you for the honor of stewarding this family under your authority. Guide my steps that I may reflect your loving leadership. In your powerful name I pray, amen.



heyfamiliadefe.com