

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

As a teenager I had a standing joke with my dad. We'd be in the living room or the kitchen, and I would say something like this with a smile on my face, “Hey, Pop, I'm gonna do whatever I want to do, whenever I want to do it.” And he had a standard, stock reply. He'd look up at the ceiling and then look at me and say, “You know what son? You can do whatever you want to do, whenever you want to do it, but you're just not going to do it here, and you're not going to live here.” We'd smile about that, but I knew, underneath, it wasn't all joking. My father was fun-loving. I guess you could say he was a grace-oriented guy. I remember laughing with him so often and so hard that my jaws and side would ache. He didn't have a lot of rules; however, he didn't tolerate disruptive, out-of-control children.

Too many of us, because of fear of not being liked by our kids, allow them to manipulate us and sow the seeds of chaos in our homes. Our homes should be full of love and grace, but also our homes should have enforced boundaries.

That's why Paul told leaders very specifically in 1 Timothy chapter 3, verse 4, these very direct words; “He must be one who manages his whole household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity.” Now admittedly, in context here he's speaking of spiritual leaders in the church, but I believe by way of implication and application he's also talking about the role of every father as priest in his home. Here's what I want you to remember today. Let's ask God to give us the courage, the discernment, and the wisdom we so desperately need in order to build the kind of home that honors Godly behavior.