



Built in Christ Jesus:

Living Out God's Radical Plan for  
Fatherhood (Eph. 6:4)



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Fatherhood (Eph. 6:4)**





The world is constantly just one generation away from being entirely Post-Christian

Fathers:





Fathers:

1 Be INTENTIONAL with your children



**“Father Absence,  
Father Deficit,  
Father Hunger.”**

*Psychology Today, 5/23/12.*

**Edward Kruk, PhD,  
Professor Emeritus of Social Work at the  
University of British Columbia - Vancouver**

**(30+ years, 5 books, dozens of articles  
specializing in child and family policy)**



According to the UNICEF report on the well-being of children in economically advanced nations, children in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. rank extremely low in regard to social and emotional well-being. Many theories have been advanced to explain the poor state of our nations' children: most notably child poverty, race, and social class. A factor that has been largely ignored, however — particularly among child and family policymakers — is the prevalence and devastating effects of fathers' absence in children's lives. The two major structural threats to fathers' presence in children's lives are divorce and non-marital childbearing.



# The effects of “fatherlessness” on children and the culture:





Diminished self-concept and compromised physical and emotional security:

Children consistently report feeling abandoned when their fathers are not involved in their lives, struggling with their emotions and episodic bouts of self-loathing.



**Mental health disorders:** Father-absent children are consistently overrepresented in a wide range of mental health problems, particularly anxiety, depression, and suicide.



**Physical health problems:** Fatherless children report significantly more psychosomatic health symptoms and illness such as acute and chronic pain, asthma, headaches, and stomachaches.

## Behavioral problems:

Fatherless children have more difficulties with social adjustment, and are more likely to report problems with friendships, and manifest behavior problems; many develop a swaggering, intimidating persona in an attempt to disguise their underlying fears, resentments, anxieties, and unhappiness.





## Promiscuity and teen pregnancy:

Fatherless children are more likely to experience problems with sexual health, including a greater likelihood of having intercourse before the age of 16, becoming teenage parents, and contracting sexually transmitted infection; many girls manifest an object hunger for males, and in experiencing the emotional loss of their fathers egocentrically as a rejection of them, may become susceptible to exploitation by adult men.



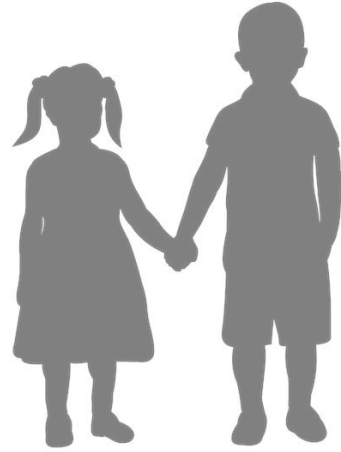
## Truancy and poor academic performance:

71 percent of high school dropouts are fatherless; fatherless children have more trouble academically, scoring poorly on tests of reading, mathematics, and thinking skills; children from father-absent homes are more likely to play truant from school, more likely to be excluded from school, more likely to leave school at age 16, and less likely to attain academic and professional qualifications in adulthood.



## Future relationships:

Father-absent children tend to enter partnerships earlier, are more likely to divorce or dissolve their cohabiting unions, and are more likely to have children outside marriage or outside any partnership.





# Drug and alcohol abuse:



Fatherless children are more likely to smoke, drink alcohol, and abuse drugs in childhood and adulthood.

# Exploitation and abuse:

Fatherless children are at greater risk of suffering physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, being five times more likely to have experienced physical abuse and emotional maltreatment, with a one hundred times higher risk of fatal abuse; a recent study reported that preschoolers not living with both of their biological parents are 40 times more likely to be sexually abused.



# Delinquency and youth crime, including violent crime:



85 percent of youth in prison have an absent father; fatherless children are more likely to offend and go to jail as adults.



# Homelessness:

90 percent of runaway children have an absent father.



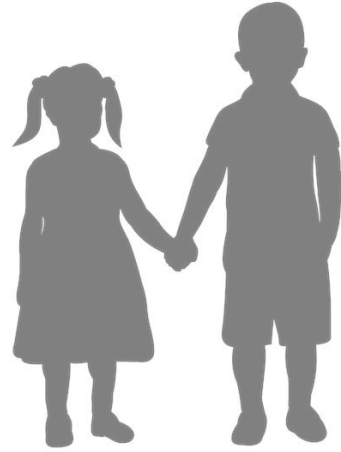
# Life chances:

As adults, fatherless children are more likely to experience unemployment, have low incomes, remain on social assistance, and experience homelessness.



# Mortality:

Fatherless children are more likely to die as children, and live an average of four years less over their lifespan.



“Given the fact that these and other social problems correlate more strongly with fatherlessness than with any other factor

—*surpassing race, social class, and poverty*—

father absence may well be the most critical social issue of our time.”



In *Fatherless America*, David Blankenhorn calls the crisis of fatherless children “the most destructive trend of our generation.”



A recent British report from the University of Birmingham, "Dad and Me," confirms Blankenhorn's claims, concluding that the need for a father is on an epidemic scale, and "father deficit" should be treated as a public health issue.



We ignore the problem of father absence at our peril. Of perhaps greatest concern is the lack of response from our lawmakers and policymakers, who pay lip service to the paramount importance of the “best interests of the child,” yet turn a blind eye to father absence, ignoring the vast body of research on the dire consequences to children’s well-being.



Fathers:

2 DISCIPLE your children





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“Discipline” gets all the books

“Discipleship” is much more important



# Application:



# Application:

Q: Who gets to be the “Head” of the family?

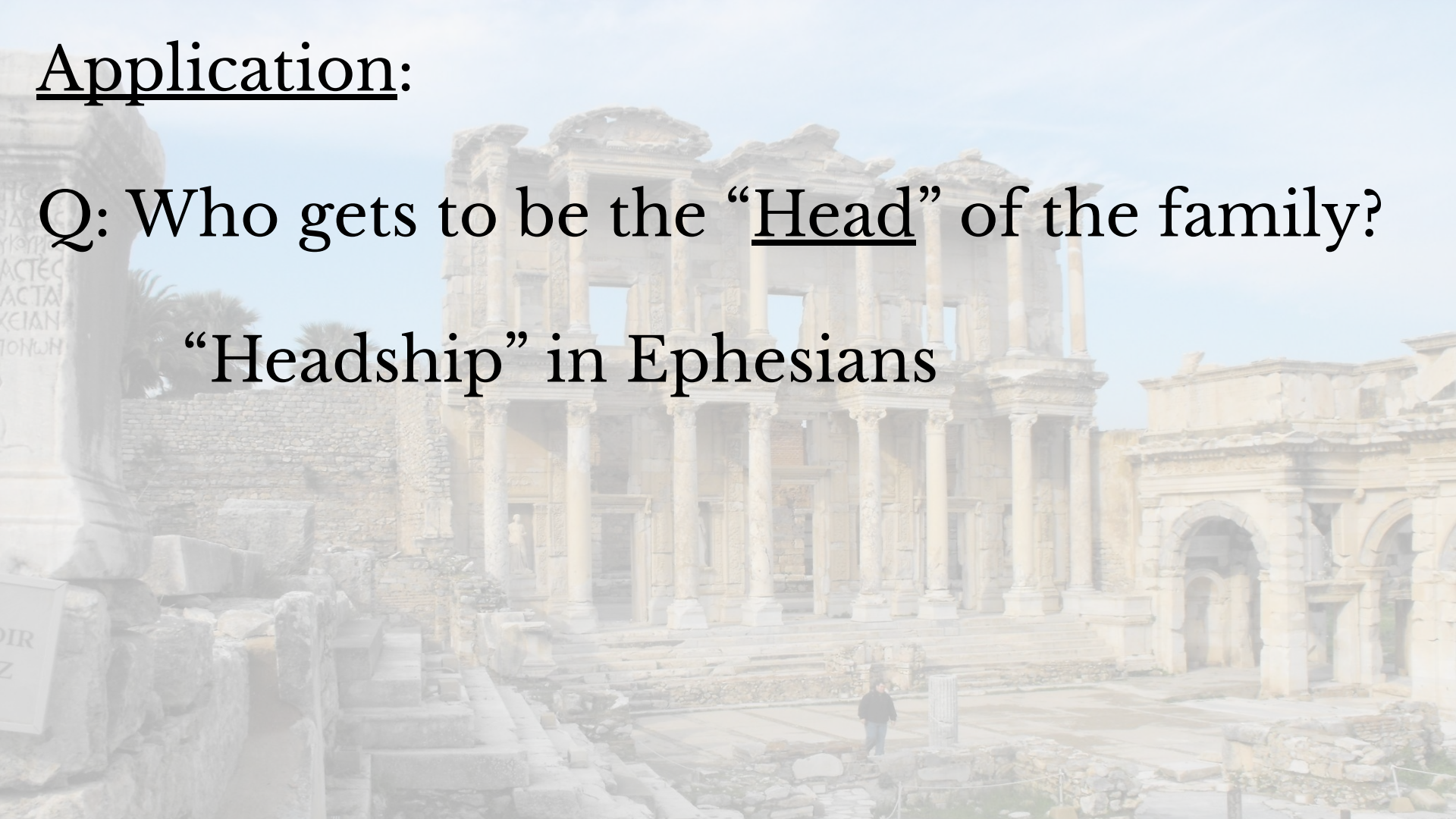




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“Headship” in Ephesians



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Q: Who gets to be the “Head” of the family?

“Headship” in Ephesians

1:10, 20-22

2:19-22

3:9-10

4:15-16

5:23-24



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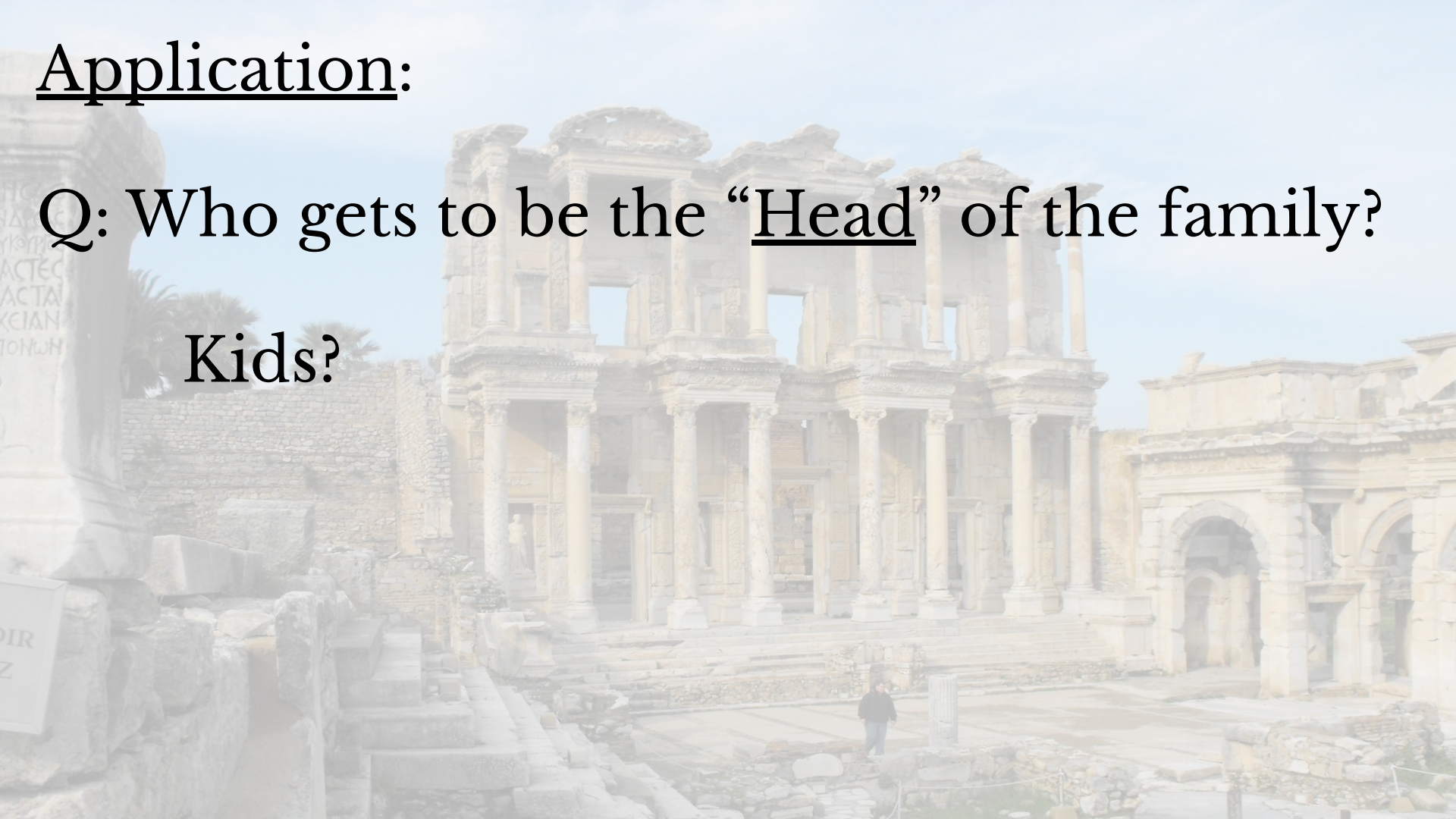
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# Application:

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Kids?



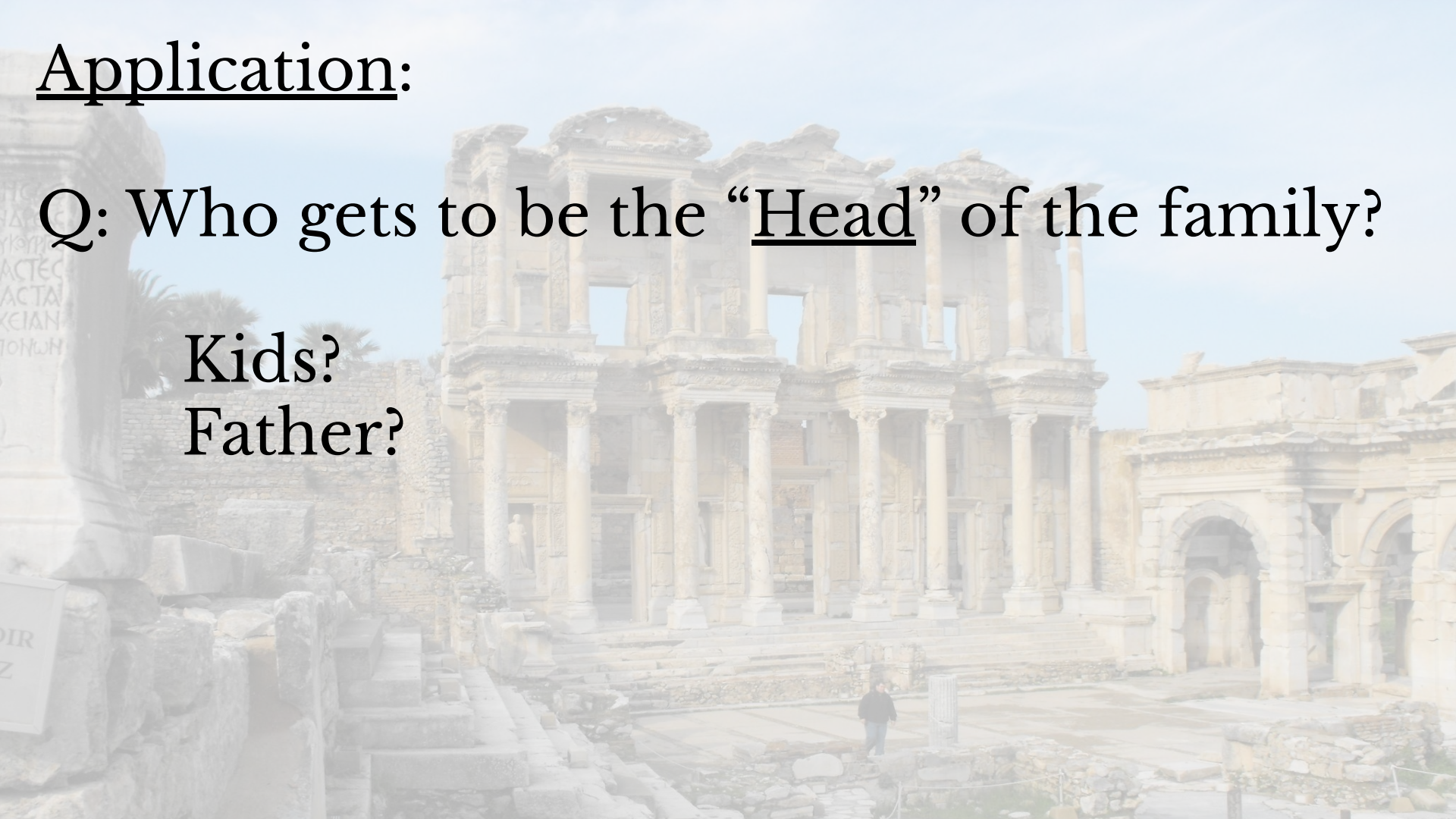


# Application:

Q: Who gets to be the “Head” of the family?

Kids?

Father?





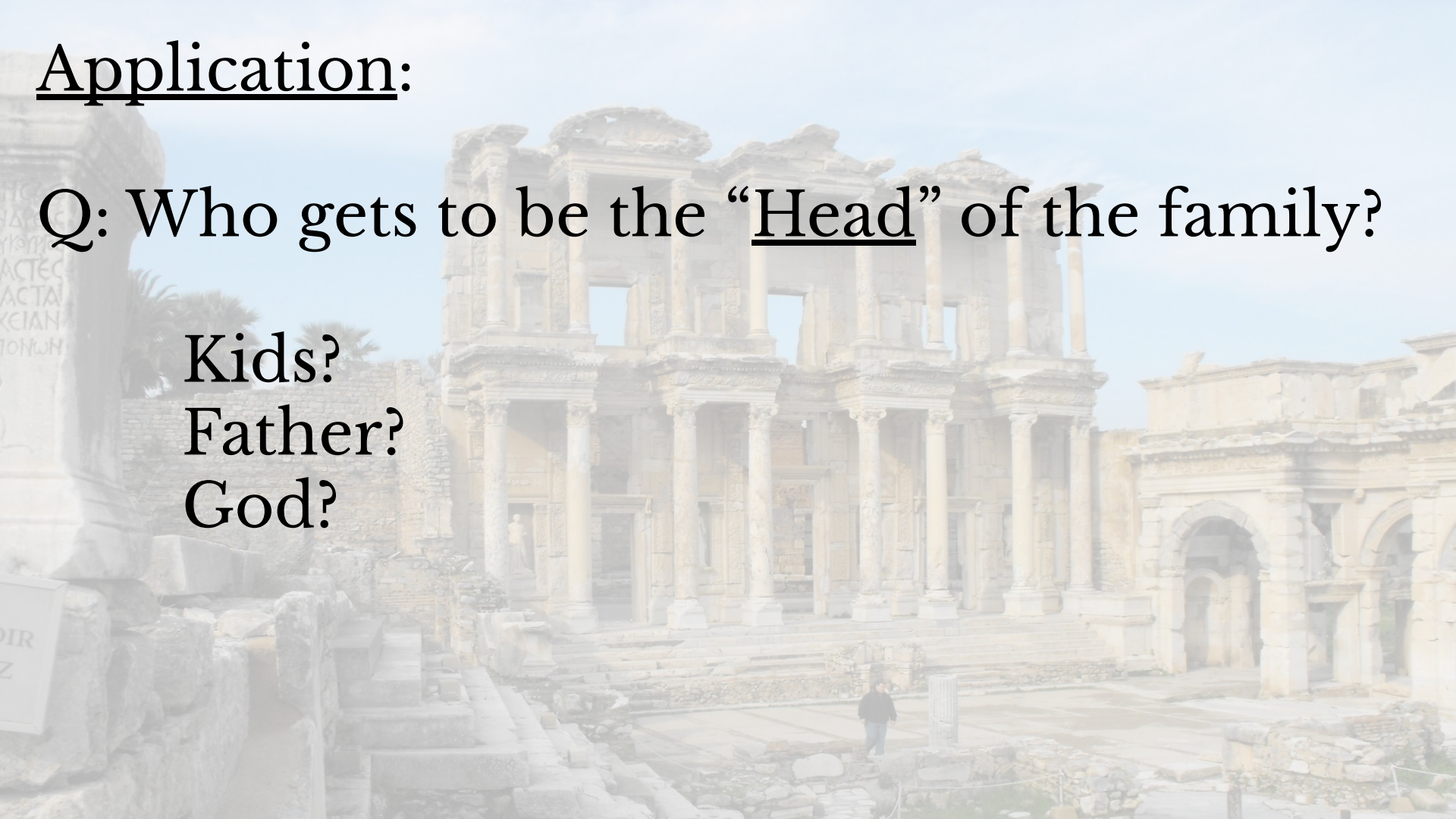
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Kids?

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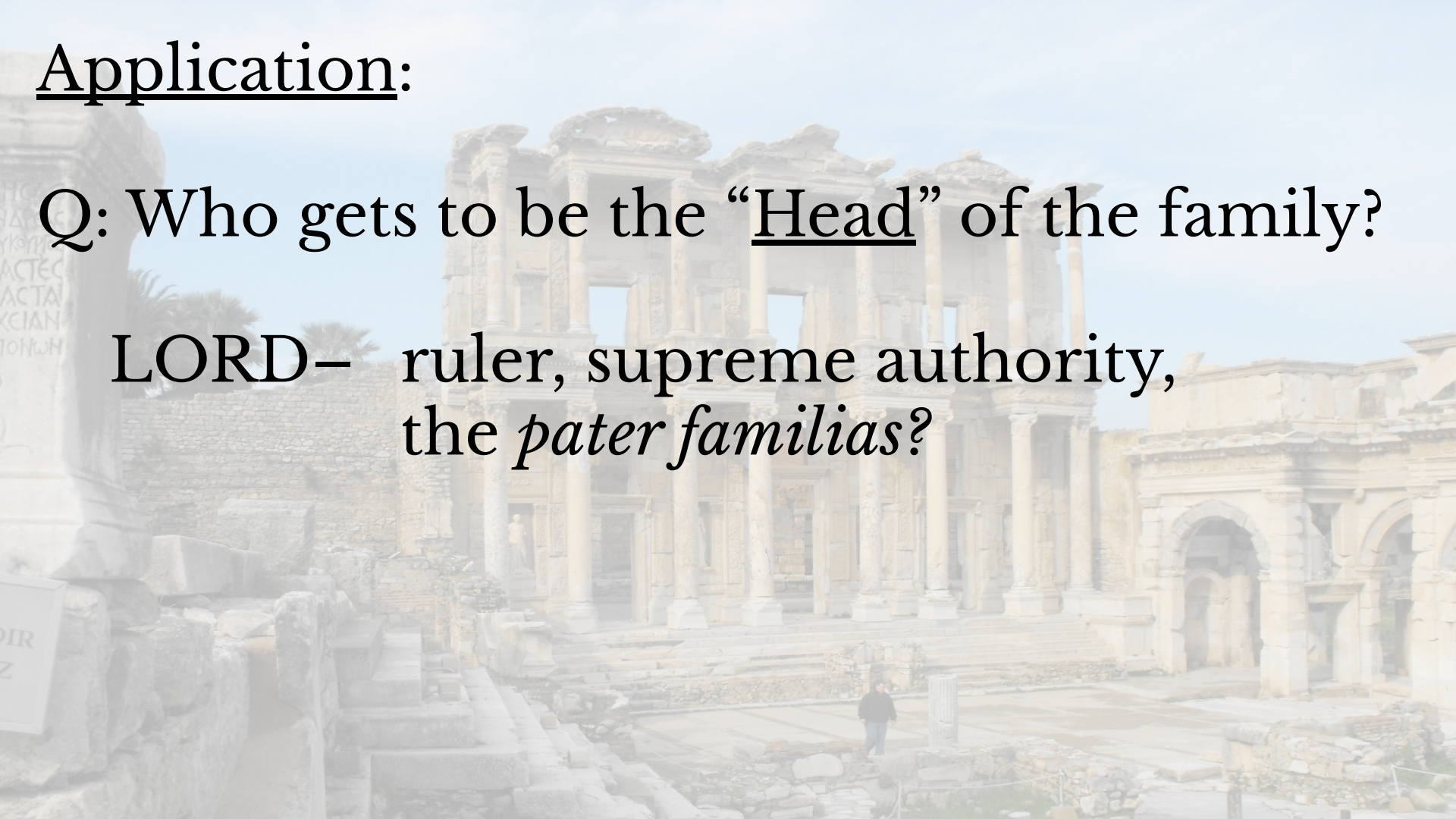
God?



# Application:

Q: Who gets to be the “Head” of the family?

LORD— ruler, supreme authority,  
the *pater familias*?





# Application:

Q: Who gets to be the “Head” of the family?

Fatherhood/Parenting is of crucial importance to the Family

Fatherhood/Parenting is of crucial importance to the Church