

SESSION 5

The Fundamental Role of the Parent & Child

Parents are divinely appointed guardians, preachers, and shepherds of the children God has entrusted to their care. Parents have the responsibility to teach them to know, love, fear, cherish, and follow Jesus Christ. His truth should surround us; pour forth from our lips; manifest itself in our actions; define our character; be evident in our homes (Deuteronomy 6:1-9).

“Christians parent with one eye on eternity. Their children will live forever. This is a staggering thought. We cannot imagine “forever.” Nevertheless, the destiny of our children either will be love that surpasses knowledge, joy inexpressible and full of glory, coupled with peace that passes understanding, or it will be weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth. There is no middle ground. Therefore, the Christian does not parent for this life only. The believing parent labors to prepare each child for the day of judgment. The stakes are inexpressibly high. Christian parenting is the process of preparing our children for the day of judgment!”¹

You cannot be a faithful & godly parent if you are not being a faithful & godly spouse

You cannot be a faithful & godly spouse if you are not living faithfully to Christ

You cannot be faithful to Christ if you are not living in obedient, submissive, humble, selfless, sacrificial love

Philippians 2:3-5 *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus*

Ephesians 4:1-3 *...walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 5:1-2 *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma*

So How Do We Apply That To Parenting?

“If you took all of the books available today on parenting and divided them by the number of days in a year, you would discover that there has been an average of 10 new parenting books produced every day of the year, for each of the past 21 years. That's more than 75,000 different parenting books currently at your disposal.”²

The instruction God has given us, through His word, makes it very short, clear, and simple.

¹ William Farley, Gospel-Powered Parenting, p. 41.

² George Barna, Revolutionary Parenting, p. xi.

THE ROLE OF CHILDREN

1. Parents Must Teach Their Children Submission

In His word, God gives two commands to children, both of which are born out of submission. Within the hierarchy of the home, the husband is the head of the wife; the parents are the authority of the children. Children are to submit to their parents. Wives are to submit to their husbands. Husbands are to submit to Christ.

Parents are to teach submission by instruction and example.

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 5:18-21 *...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and being subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

2. Parents Must Teach Their Children Obedience

“When you teach obedience to your child you are training them to submit to God's authority even when they don't like it or understand it. The ultimate motivation for obedience is rooted in the fact that it is right. We know that it is right for children to obey their parents because God commanded it and he is never wrong. When parents and children alike forget this point they begin to waver on the requirement of obedience. Kids begin to question the need for obedience when it contradicts their own sensibilities. Parents begin to question the need to enforce obedience when it contradicts their own comfort. Parents and kids alike must remember that children must obey parents because that is right in God's eyes.”³

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for **this is right. Honor** your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long in the land

Colossians 3:20 Children, **obey** your parents in all things, for this is **pleasing to the Lord**

3. Parents Must Teach Their Children Reverence

As parents teach children to submit, obey, honor, and respect, they are shepherding their hearts towards the Gospel and teaching them the path of holiness, maturity, and Christ-likeness

There are dire warnings in the Bible for children who dishonor and disrespect their parents, without repentance. In the Old Testament, this warranted the death penalty. (Deut. 27:16; 21:18-21; Exodus 21:15; Leviticus 20:9)

³ Paul Shirley, The Christian Home, p. 56.

The normalization of disobedient children is an indication that a culture is under the wrath of God because of the suppression of truth by those who profess to know truth

Romans 1:28-32

...they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, **disobedient to parents**, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are **worthy of death**, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 8-9

In the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, **disobedient to parents**, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these... these men also oppose the truth, **men of depraved mind**, rejected in regard to the faith. But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all.

The prevalence of disobedience in our culture is an indicator that we are under the judgment of God and have been delivered over to depravity. Its a sign of condemnation.

To fail to teach you children to please Christ, by submission, obedience, and reverence is to identify with the culture, rather than God, and to usher your children towards the eternal wrath of God.

To withhold discipline & instruction for your children is not love. It is child abuse that you will be accountable for at the judgment of God

We have a high calling as parents, to shepherd the hearts of the children God has entrusted to us. It is a heavenly stewardship.

Additional Notes

THE STEWARDSHIP OF PARENTS

Parents are stewards of God's precious children, representatives of God for His children, and mediators between God and His children to exemplify and proclaim His truth with clarity and love.

Ezekiel 16:20-22 *Moreover, you took **your** sons and daughters whom **you** had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? **You slaughtered My children** and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.*

Psalms 139 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works...
And in Your book all of them were written
The days that were formed for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.

Our children have been entrusted to us by the One who made them and He has given very specific and explicit instruction on what we are to do with His children

- **We have the responsibility to love**, nurture, nourish, cherish, and protect His children
- **We have the responsibility to exemplify holiness** to His children, imitating the character of Christ and submitting to His will.
- **We have the responsibility to instruct** His children with His truth from His word, with clarity and patience, so that they know Him, love Him, fear Him, and follow Him
- **We have the responsibility to discipline** His children when they are moving away from Him (straying in their actions, words, or thinking) so that they may be brought back, restored, and shepherded well

Grandparents Too!!!!

- Do not forsake, what could be, the most honorable and admirable position in this life. Be known as a living example of a lifetime of faithful submissive holiness, that exudes the wisdom of God, because you have spent decades listening to and submitting to His perfect word.

THE GOAL OF PARENTS

FAITHFULNESS - The goal is to honor Christ and be faithful to God, for His glory

- Faithfulness is living consistently, with integrity, in obedience to the commands and responsibilities given to us in the Bible
- Faithfulness requires patience, persistence, and perseverance
- Faithfulness is dependent upon the grace, strength, and love of Christ
- Faithfulness is the fruit of a life controlled by the Spirit, submissive to the Lord and others

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

1. Parents Must Pursue Holiness

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, **do not exasperate your children**, so that they will not lose heart.

This negative command is to both parents. However, the head of the family is the father and the imperative charge begins with him and belongs to him. When men abdicate their role, everyone suffers. The father's example is primary influence in the home. The mother should submit to his lead.

"Example is the first principle of parenting. This should not surprise us. Parenting is about leadership, and example is the first principle of biblical leadership. When parents practice what they teach, God gives them moral authority in their children's eyes. All teaching in the Bible starts with example."⁴

Do not provoke – Do not cause them to be angry; do not exasperate them; agitate, annoy them

Do not exasperate – Do not irritate them, stir them up, cause them to resent you

Sin causes of provocation. Ongoing patterns of selfishness, anger, anxiety, or pride manifest in the parent will provoke the child. An inconsistent or non-existent pursuit of holiness and righteousness will provoke the child. Forgetting, neglecting, or rejecting the commands of God; Complaining towards God; Rebelling against God will provoke both the Lord and your family

Israel provoked God in the desert (God is holy, blameless, above reproach & provoked by sin)

Psalms 106:29 Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds

Hebrews 3:15-16 Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”
For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

Parents cannot entertain sin in their own lives that will cause **His children** to be provoked and will ultimately bring reproach to **His Name**, making **His Word** seem burdensome or insufficient, causing **His character** to be maligned, making **His children** rebel against **Him**, making the sins of this world seem safe or appealing, all because we professed to be led by Him and took His name, but lived sinful, duplicitous, hypocritical lives

For the sake of His name and the sake of our children we must exemplify godly, holy, pure character **in our homes, at all times**. When we fall short (and we will), we must repent and we must humble ourselves before our children, so they witness our submission and allegiance to Christ, even in our weakness and frailty. How can we instruct His children to take faithful steps towards Him if we ourselves are not faithfully walking ahead of them?

We must imitate God & Love like Christ (Eph. 5:1-2); Be holy for He is holy (1 Peter 1:16)

⁴ William Farley, Gospel-Powered Parenting, p. 107

God never provokes His children to sin. That is Satan's scheming.

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|-------------------|--|
| Ephesians 4:26-27 | Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and <u>do not give the devil an opportunity</u> . |
| Matthew 19:14 | Let the children alone, and <u>do not hinder them from coming to Me</u> ; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. |
| Matthew 18:6 | ...but <u>whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble</u> , it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. |

"Don't make unreasonable demands on them. Don't do things that will drive them to anger, despair, resentment. Paul's words about provoking a child suggest a repeated, ongoing pattern of behavior on the part of the parents that, over time, builds up and makes a child more and more frustrated and angry."⁵

Habits that Provoke/Exasperate Children

- **Hypocrisy at Home**
Telling them to trust, submit, obey the Lord in His word, but then not submitting yourself to the same standard. When you do sin and fall short, not repenting in front of your children, confessing your sin in front of your children, reconciling with your children, humbly walking in obedience in front of your children
- **Overprotection**
Trying to control every circumstance in order and satisfy your fearful lack of trust in God, instead of teaching and training your child so they grow and develop
- **Overindulgence**
Meeting the desires of their mind and flesh or feeding them with the allurements of the world, rather than training them to learn contentment, self-control, selfless-love, and submission
- **Prideful Privacy or Isolation**
Internalizing or concealing sin, keeping everything within the family (usually under the disguise of not burdening others) and teaching your children to cut themselves off from the love, support, edification, care, prayers, and help of the body of Christ because of your own selfish fear & pride

Provocation Lists attached at the end of the notes⁶

⁵ John MacArthur, Brave Dad, p.

⁶ From What the Bible Says About Parenting (Cultivating a Godly Child), by John MacArthur; The Heart of Anger, by Lou Priolo; The Faithful Parent, by Martha Peace & Stuart Scott

2. Parents Must Practice Discipline

The Positive Command is to “bring them up” – Train, Nourish, Rear, Raise up, Cherish them, Provide for them and shepherd them towards maturity

Parents must bring up their children as Christ brings up the church

Ephesians 5:29 ...for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church

Ephesians 4:11-13 He Himself gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ...

Ephesians 6:4 tells parents the exact means by which we are to bring up our children. We are to raise them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

DISCIPLINE – to provide instruction, correction, training, with the intent of forming proper habits and behavior so that we are aligned with what is right. It is the same word used to describe training in righteousness in 2 Timothy 3 and the discipline of the Lord in Hebrews 12. The Lord instructs us with His truth from His own lips through His Word. He disciplines us through endurance, perseverance, conviction, suffering, trials, testing, distress, loss, and pain because He loves us and will not forsake us

Timothy 3:16-17 **All Scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 12:5-6 My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.

The Bible always connects discipline with love, especially in the family relationship and in our relationship with Christ. In fact, God equates a lack of discipline with hatred or illegitimacy

Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son,
But he who loves him disciplines him diligently

Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons

Discipline is what causes our endurance; produces perseverance; cultivates progressive sanctification, and assures our final culmination in Christ. We cannot complete the race without discipline. Parents are called to discipline their children so that they grow up to fear, love, know, and obey Christ.

Hebrews 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Hebrews 12:10-11

He **disciplines** us for our benefit, so that we may share His **holiness**. And all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been **trained by it**, afterwards it yields the **peaceful fruit of righteousness**.

You must discipline your children. Because you are commanded by God and because you love them.

Discipline must be:

- **CONSISTENT** – clarity, precision, purpose, with the main goal in mind (the heart of the child)
- **LOVING** – Our Father disciplines us out of love
- **BIBLICAL** – Teach them what the Lord says in His word; how they offended Him; what they must do to repent
- **PAINFUL** – Conquer stubbornness; break the will; help to see the consequence of sin
- **AFFECTIONATE** – Hold them until they stop crying
- **GOSPEL-CENTERED** – Use every opportunity to remind them of their need for a Savior and what Christ did for them

Discipline must be immediate, decisive, age appropriate. It must cause sorrow and be painful so that your child sees the effects and results of sin. It must be delivered with love, patience, compassion, sympathy, meekness, instruction and fear. It must be repeated until you win the battle.

Proverbs 23:13-14

Do not hold back discipline from the child,
Although you **strike him with the rod**, he will not die.
You shall strike him with the rod And **rescue his soul from Sheol**.

Proverbs 29:15

The **rod and reproof give wisdom**,
But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 22:15

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The **rod of discipline will remove it** far from him.

Additional Notes

3. Parents Must Proclaim Truth

It is the responsibility of the parents to teach their children truth about the Lord. We must help them to develop a worldview that coincides with the revealed truth of God's word, so that they are able to discern good from evil, truth from lies, and know the ways of righteousness, holiness, and truth. The parents are responsible to teach their children and train them to fear the Lord and to keep His commands.

INSTRUCTION – to provide admonition, warning, counsel. To put into the mind; to teach, guide, nurture, impart knowledge, truth, and understanding. Parents must advise His children about the dangers of sin and the necessity of submission and obedience to Christ. Parents must provide counsel, correction of the mind, and training to produce **maturity** in their children

- Ephesians 4:13-15 ... we are **no longer** to be children, **tossed** here and there by waves and **carried about** by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming, but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to **grow up in all aspects into Him** who is the head, that is **Christ**...
- Ephesians 4:22-23 ...lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and to **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and to put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth
- Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may **approve what the will of God is**, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- Luke 2:51-52 He (*Jesus*) continued in **subjection** to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in **favor** with **God** and men

We must discipline and instruct our children in exactly what our Father disciplines and instruct us. Our **discipline** and **instruction** must be submissive to the Word of God and must convey **nothing more** and **nothing less** than His whole divine instruction. This will produce maturity in our children.

- **Mental Maturity** – They need discretion, instruction, knowledge. You are forming how they think, how they discern and discriminate, how they understand life and God
- **Physical Maturity** – Warn them of the allurements of the world and their determined end (desolation and destruction). Teach them discipline, self-control, diligence, honor, integrity, and love.
- **Social Maturity** – They are naturally selfish and proud. Teach them humility, love, preference, kindness, selflessness, service, and sacrifice.
- **Spiritual Maturity** – Teach them to love the Lord, to listen, submit, and trust Him. Tell them of His kindness, goodness, gentleness, mercy, grace, patience, everlasting love.

The Principal Precept for Parents

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to **teach you**, that you might **do them** in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that **you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments** which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. O Israel, you **should listen and be careful to do it**, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your sons** and shall **talk of them** when you **sit** in your house and when you **walk** by the way and when you **lie down** and when you **rise up**. You shall **bind them** as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall **write them** on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The Warning Against Letting Children Train Themselves

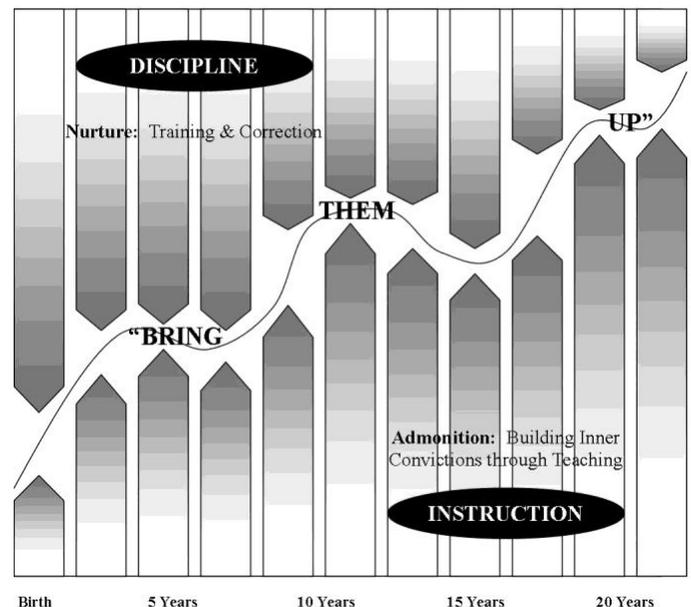
Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child according to his way,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it

If you allow a child to determine his own path and develop his own way of thinking, then when he is older he will not depart from it. If you neglect training according to God’s word, you are allowing your children to be directed by their own sinful desires and by the culture (the satanic world system craftily designed to lead astray). The path governed by selfishness and pride leads to destruction and hell.

Additional Notes

The Parent-Child Relationship—Eph. 6:4



25 Ways That Parents Provoke Their Children to Anger

The Heart of Anger, by Lou Priolo

The Faithful Parent, by Martha Peace & Stuart Scott

1. Lack of marital harmony
2. Establishing and maintaining a child centered home
3. Modeling sinful anger
4. Habitually disciplining while angry
5. Scolding
6. Being inconsistent with discipline
7. Having double standards
8. Being legalistic
9. Not admitting you are wrong and not asking for forgiveness
10. Constantly finding fault
11. Parents reversing their God-given roles
12. Not listening to your child's opinion or taking his or her side of the story seriously
13. Comparing them to others
14. Not making time to just talk
15. Not praising or encouraging your child
16. Failing to keep your promises
17. Chastening in front of others
18. Not allowing enough freedom
19. Allowing too much freedom
20. Mocking your child
21. Abusing them physically
22. Ridiculing or name calling
23. Unrealistic expectations
24. Practicing favoritism
25. Training with worldly methodologies inconsistent with God's word

Do Not Provoke Them to Anger

Successful Christian Parenting, by John MacArthur

1. **Overprotection** - fencing them in too much; smothering them; never trusting them; always assuming they are not telling you the truth; never giving them an opportunity to develop independence, thus making them feel stifled and crushed.
2. **Over indulgence** - excessively permissive parents whose spoiled their children are as likely to stir the children's wrath as those who smother them.
3. **Favoritism** - Giving gifts or privileges to one child and withholding them from another; comparing your children with one another; saying things like, "Why can't you be like your brother?" Making your child feel inferior to everyone else in the family
4. **Unrealistic Goals** - constantly pushing achievement; pressuring your child to fulfill goals you never accomplished; robbing them of any sense of fulfillment
5. **Discouragement** - constantly criticizing; never rewarding or praising their accomplishments; always focusing on what they do wrong and never noticing what they do right; always noticing their faults but never saying anything about their strengths; being constantly suspicious of them
6. **Neglect** - failing to show them affection; showing indifference; not being interested in what interests them; not being concerned for their needs
7. **Condescension** - refusing to allow them to grow up; laughing when they do naive or immature things; constantly talking down to them belittling them for natural childishness
8. **Withdrawing Love** - using affection as a tool of reward and punishment; saying things like, "mommy won't like you if you do that" or "mommy loves you when you're so good."
9. **Excessive Discipline** - riding your kids constantly; holding the threat of corporal punishment over their heads like a sword; bullying your kids; provoking them an unkindness; disciplining selfishly or impulsively

The 10 Commandments of Parenting

By Lance Quinn

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Proverbs 4:24; Proverbs 5:7–14; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 19:18; Proverbs 22:15; Proverbs 23:13–14; Proverbs 28:13; Proverbs 31:10–31; Matthew 6:14–15; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Ephesians 5:24–25; Colossians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8; 1 Timothy 6:5–10; James 1:27

One of the most common questions I get from Christian parents is about parenting. They want specific and practical advice for rearing their children in the very best way. Couples usually understand their general parental responsibility, but will often speak of the need for help in specifically framing their biblical commitments to optimally shepherd and train their children.

Whether you are considering your parental responsibilities with a new child, or even reaffirming these biblical principles with your older children (It's never too late!), or even as grandparents toward your grandchildren, the following "ten commandments" from God's Word are sure to benefit you, your family, and your church.

1. Pursue Righteousness in Your Marriage

Husbands, you need to show your children how a husband loves his wife, even as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). Do they see you giving yourself up for her? Are they observing how you tenderly and patiently lead her, teach her, and protect her? Your example in the treatment of your wife will teach volumes about Christ's love for His beloved bride, the church.

Wives, to your children you need to model biblical submission as you subject yourself to your husband in everything (Ephesians 5:24). Do your children see how you work out your submission to Christ in respectful submission to your husband? Your marriage is a living, breathing example of the church's willing submission to her Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Confess Your Sins to One Another

You need to confess, when appropriate, your sins to your family (Proverbs 28:13), and seek their forgiveness when necessary (Matthew 6:14-15; Colossians 3:13). As you are quick to confess, you are demonstrating true humility and an ultimate desire to be pleasing to God in all your ways (2 Cor. 5:9).

3. Pursue Sexual Purity

Be very careful to protect your home from the sexual immorality of the world we live in. That means you need to abstain from sexual immorality yourself (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8), and otherwise promote sexual purity in your home (Proverbs 5-7). The pursuit of sexual purity should govern your entertainment choices, season your speech, and guide you when you're in public or private, especially when you think no one else is looking or listening. Your own sexual purity will protect you and your children from the heartbreak known well among a depraved generation (Proverbs 5:7-14).

4. Manage Your Resources Wisely

Take great pains to manage the Lord's money and resources with which you are entrusted, and do so with the utmost integrity (1 Timothy 6:5-10). Continually think of ways to be a better steward of all your time, talent, and treasure (Proverbs 31:10-31), always looking to God for His provision for all your basic life needs (Matthew 6:31-34; 1 Timothy 5:8).

5. Evangelize Your Children and Others

Because of your great love for your children, endeavor to be a consistent witness to them of your own faith, as well as speaking often to them about the nature of their relationship to the Lord. Live in such a way around your kids that you are fulfilling the spirit of Paul's command to Timothy: "Do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5). In addition, as you have opportunity, proclaim the gospel to others with whom you come in contact, thus hopefully instilling in your children the same desire to share this eternal message (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

6. Teach Your Children the Word of God

Regularly teach your children God's Word, both by your life (desiring to be models of Christ-likeness to them; 1 John 2:6) and by your proactive and consistent commitment to family worship. Especially as fathers (as well as single mothers too), you have the responsibility to impart the truth of Scripture to your children for their great good (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

7. Discipline Your Children

When your children need correction, discipline them with what the Bible calls the "rod of reproof." Those parents who truly love their children will desire to do this in a caring, consistent, yet firm manner, attempting to avoid harshness and anger. Scripture says that when you do so, children will cease their foolishness and become wise (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14).

8. Watch Your Words Carefully

Words are very powerful tools for good or evil! They can either build up or tear down. Speak to your spouse, your children, and others with godly wisdom so that you may edify and encourage (Proverbs 4:24; 6:12; 10:32; 19:1). Your children are watching you intently, and what you say (including how you say it), will have deep and lasting effects on them. Train your children not to speak unrighteously (Ephesians 4:29-31).

9. Show Your Children Your Own Love for God and Man

Love your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40). The greatest gift you can give your kids is to show them your all-consuming love for Jesus Christ! What should flow from this passion is also your love for your neighbors, which certainly includes your immediate family. Extending beyond this circle of influence is your desire to live a pure and undefiled spiritual life, which is demonstrated by visiting orphans and widows in their distress, and keeping yourself unstained by the world (Jam. 1:27). Pray that your example of love will have great impact on your children.

10. Ask God for Grace and Strength in Your Child-Rearing

The Bible commands you to rear your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Thus, child-rearing is not an option. Thus, the remaining question should be: How well are you doing as a parent? To whatever degree you perceive you are succeeding or failing in the task, and regardless of what will be the initial outcome and ultimate destiny of your children, ask God for much grace and strength to be a parent who glorifies Him.

If you'll follow these "ten commandments" of parenting, the Lord will sanctify you and bless you. Furthermore, your life and doctrine can be useful to the Holy Spirit in demonstrating the saving power of the gospel to your children. The rest we must leave in the hands of a sovereign God. May God continually remind all of us of our solemn parental task to leave a legacy of godly faithfulness to the succeeding generations.

Homework

“THE CHRISTIAN HOME” READING:

Read the Chapter 5-6 “Obedient Children & Faithful Parents” (27 pages)

Go over Chapter 5-6 discussion questions with your spouse.

1. **PRAYER:** Pray for your children every day this week.
2. **THE WORD:** Memorize Ephesians 6:1-4.
3. **THE DATE:** Go on a date with your spouse this week.
 - a. Discuss God’s Fundamental Roles for Parents & Children.
 - b. Reflect on your own marriage and home. Are there areas where you are failing as parents or neglecting your God given responsibilities?
 - i. Men, are you taking the lead of training up your children?
 - ii. How are you practicing discipline and instruction?
 - iii. Write down 3 ways you will commit to be faithful parents.
 - c. Read “25 Ways That Parents Provoke Their Children to Anger” and “Do Not Provoke Them to Anger” (attached above) and discuss ways you may be provoking your children. Resolve how you will put away these habits and develop Christ-centered patterns.
 - d. Tell each other at least five things you love and appreciate about one another in your roles as father & mother.
4. **THE EXTRA CREDIT:** Listen to “God’s Pattern for Parents” by John MacArthur
 - a. **SERMONS**
 - b. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1950A/gods-pattern-for-parents-part-1>
 - c. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1950B/gods-pattern-for-parents-part-2>