

Deuteronomy 6.4-9

Fathers!! Teach Your Children!

God created the parable of marriage for the display of His love for His chosen people.

Ephesians 5:30–32 (NKJV)

³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Part of that covenant is the declaration of God that a marriage was to become a family, to produce not only offspring, but GODLY offspring.

Malachi 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

The intent of our homes then, as we live out the parable of marriage, and the parable of family is to make sure that the lesson is learned. That our families faithfully reflect the God who chose us before the foundation of the world; who sent His Own Son to die for the sin of His chosen people; and who in the fullness of His own perfect plan and timetable will return again to redeem us all unto Himself. It is a LOT to take in and a much higher calling than most homes are aiming at...

But the reason for this lapse is that too many fathers are aiming at the completely wrong things. We see even many of the best families aimed at worldly success... we see them aim at financial security, a good name among the neighbors, comfort, some measure of enjoyment of hobbies and a desire to set the children up better than the parents had it... none of these things is necessarily wrong in and of themselves, but when they are permitted to replace that which is the main thing, they are themselves a stumbling block.

This morning I want to consider just what is required of parents in general and fathers in particular so that

where our families are concerned we might hear God speak the words, "Well done!"

I. CONSIDER THE MAIN CHARGE

Deuteronomy 6.4-9

- A. Declare the true nature of God
- B. Love and honor God above all else
- C. TEACH your children to do the same
- D. This is the very stuff of life, nothing else matters if this is not done.

II. PROPER TARGET IDENTIFICATION

- A. Establish a Good aim

Psalm 78.1-8

- 1. Confess and profess the wonders of what God has done

2. Speak the word and the works of God to the generations to come
3. Establish this as THE priority of your home, so that your children might know it well enough to teach it to their children, and to their children's children...
4. Establish this as the priority of your life so that your family might set their hope on God alone.

B. Confess and Re-Aim where you have failed

1. The intent is that the generation to come would stand on our shoulders and do better
2. Own your own sin, be clear and transparent (within the bounds of maturity and propriety) so that they might learn to do better.
3. Teach them to hope in God alone, by assessing and re-structuring your own hope
4. Make sure that you are living a repentant life

III. TESTIFY OF GOD

A. Establish God's faithfulness in the mind of your own children and family

Joshua 4.4-7

1. Establish markers of God's faithfulness in your life
2. Rehearse the goodness of God continually to your children
3. Be consistent in your remembrances, your children need to know what these stones mean to you!
4. These are the marks of your own covenant with God

B. Establish God's faithfulness to a watching world

Joshua 4.21-24

1. Be aware that your family's faithfulness will become a testimony to the nations.
2. God's faithfulness in YOUR life becomes a platform for the proclamation of the gospel unto the ends of the earth

3. Remember that your own testimony is but a part of the tapestry of the gospel story that is to be shared over the whole earth
4. We are not allowed to blink back in the face of adversity and opposition

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

C. You ARE the very declaration of God Himself

Ephesians 3.9-12

1. Your home, your family, your story and your testimony become the path for the proclamation of the glory of God
2. They become the boasting of the Lord over all the powers and principalities in the heavenly places
3. This is part of the purpose of God in establishing families and choosing a people redeemed for His own glory.

Ephesians 1.11-14

IV. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

A. The job of the living is to praise the Lord

Isaiah 38:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children.

1. Declare it to the children, they need to hear it often.
2. Do not cloud the issue with your own opinions, but center the proclamation of God's glory in the truth of who God is, as He is revealed in the Bible.
3. This is the reason that we live, it is our purpose. To GLORIFY God and Enjoy Him forever...
4. The fact of our lives is all the motivation we should need to praise the God who made us; There is no other reason needed,

as long as there is breath in your body,
praise the Lord.

B. They need precept upon precept

Isaiah 28.8-13

1. When we don't teach them the truth little by little, part by part, they will reject it wholesale, and will be destroyed by the lack. That which they do hear will become a snare to them as they misapply and misunderstand the truth...
2. God's truth WILL be declared...
 - a. You for glory and good
 - b. Stones for condemnation...
3. This is the ONLY rest which will be given. Rest in the Father by His will and glory, all of our seeking after false rests will be our undoing.
4. We meet their rebellious hearts with the truth of God's word. We keep teaching truth, we keep expressing the things of God according to HIS word and pattern

V. PRIORITIZE REAL LIFE

A. Be willing to suffer the loss of all things for the sake of the kingdom of God - your children need that example and you need that focus.

Philippians 3.7-8

1. In the end we might lose anything else and be ok, but we can never stand the thought of losing our children and seeing them destroyed... while it is true that they are in the hand of God and He will do what He will do, it is also true that they have been entrusted to us, and our consciences will be our enemy if we have not done all we could to teach our children and they are lost...
2. Do not permit your worldly passions to be the destruction of your children!

B. Lay hold of the promises of God on behalf of your children... teach them and raise them in the discipline and the admonition of the Lord

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

C. Lean in to God and trust Him to do what is right as you raise your children to know His character...

Acts 2:38–39 (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”